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WORLD OF SPORT
Broncos get stampeded
It's all in the WORLD OF SPORT TODAY

PM asks Mubarak's help to end Hebron impasse

DAVID MAKOVSKY



Finance Minister Dan Meridor confers with Communications Minister Limor Livnat yesterday, just before the cabinet discussed his proposal for an additional NIS 1.8 billion budget cut. (Flash 90)

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu last night asked Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to use his influence on the Palestinians to break the current logjam in the talks on a Hebron pullback.

The appeal came in the phone call initiated by Mubarak, according to a statement by Netanyahu's office. During the phone call, Netanyahu praised Egypt for making a "favorable contribution" to the peace process, a comment which contrasts with the acrimony which has swirled around the bilateral relationship in recent months.

The appeal marks one of the few times Israel has asked Egypt to step up its intervention in the peace process. The Netanyahu government has been suspicious that Cairo would urge the Palestinians to take tougher positions.

The appeal comes as Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat is seeking to prevail upon Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to scuttle a joint US-Egyptian compromise document, which would have led to a Netanyahu-Arafat summit that would culminate the accord.

Erekat, sources said, has told Arafat that if he is permitted to continue the talks, he could get a "better deal" than the proposed compromise plan, even if it takes longer. Arafat is weighing this, and everything has been put on hold.

Arafat is now in a dilemma, since he has been careful not to huck Mubarak, but Mubarak's national security adviser, Osama Baz, coauthored the proposal with US special Middle East peace coordinator Dennis Ross. (Continued on Page 9)

Ministers comment on budget cut

FOREIGN Minister David Levy was the most outspoken of the ministers who opposed the budget cuts. The others let it be understood that there is still plenty of room for bargaining.

Levy: "The Gesher faction will under no circumstances vote for any budget which shortchanges the weaker members of our society. The proposals which were brought to the cabinet are of the sort which deepen the inequities in society rather than narrow them. We will insist on the full implementation of the undertakings which were given us by the prime minister. I will not be a partner to a policy which deprives the 'have-nots.' I have not forgotten where I came from."

Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav: "Those ministers who are in charge of portfolios which deal with social problems will simply not be

able to bear the burden of these cuts. They are impossible when these ministries are already finding it difficult to cope with budgets that were insufficient even before the cuts. I continue to maintain that other alternatives are possible, and I have proposed them."

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai: "I predict that when this is all over, my ministry will not be required to make the cuts voted on by the cabinet. I plan to meet the prime minister next week to explain that I see no sphere in my ministry in which I can trim the budget. I will suggest to him from where the money can be taken so that those who rely on my ministry's help are not deprived in any way."

Interior Minister Eli Suissa: "I can't absolutely say at this point that Shas will vote against the budget. A lot will happen to it before it reaches the final vote. I sincerely believe that with just a little more effort, the way will be found to minimize the blow to the poor."

Just as the government decided to make more money by putting more taxi licenses on the market, so other ways will be found to earn more fees and the problem will be satisfactorily solved."

The ministers who voted for the budget on the whole were happy with the outcome, especially Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, who decreased the cuts to his budget. Hammer: "The original proposal was for (Continued on Page 9)

The real haggling starts now

NO Hanukka miracle occurred for Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Dan Meridor yesterday. While they managed to pass ostensibly impressive budget cuts in the cabinet, they know full well that they "ain't seen nothing yet."

The real test for the budget is not in the cabinet, but in the Knesset. It has been for every previous government and this one is no exception. The balance of power in the cabinet is vastly different from that in the Knesset. Only the coalition is represented in the cabinet, thus winning a majority is less of a problem. The Knesset, of course, includes the opposition, which puts great power in the hands of the four nay-saying ministers.

While they constitute a small minority in the cabinet, they command a parliamentary force large enough to wipe out the coalition's majority. David Levy, Moshe Katsav, Eli Yishai, and Eli Suissa together have at least 20 MKs who will toe their line.

This includes Levy's Gesher faction, the Shas faction, and those Likud MKs who claim to represent the have-nots. To these should be added the four United Torah Judaism MKs, who can be counted upon not to give up lightly.

The betting in political circles is that this group will prudently stop at the brink and not bring down a government in which they are doing quite well. None of the elements involved has any desire to see early elections.

However, there is no telling how many cliff-hangers await us till the final reading of the budget bill. The real action is yet to come. It is worth noting, for example, that in all the powerplays thus far in the short annals of this government, Levy has always managed to twist Netanyahu's arm.

What sort of a budget will emerge when it's all over? Certainly, to put it mildly, one that will not entirely resemble that which Meridor just elicited from the cabinet. Yesterday's decisions merely sketch a rough outline of the budget. This will be redrawn in the Knesset. The haggling really starts now.

Cabinet okays NIS 1.8b. budget cut

DAVID HARRIS

THE cabinet, by a vote of 14-4, yesterday approved a NIS 1.8 billion cut in the 1997 budget, in addition to the NIS 4.9b. cut agreed upon in July.

The cut is split between NIS 1.2b. in direct reductions in expenditures and NIS 0.6b. from a variety of other sources. The total budget for 1997 now stands at NIS 189b.

The four ministers who voted against the cuts were Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai and Interior Minister Eli Suissa, both of Shas; Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav (Likud); and Foreign Minister David Levy (Gesher).

Maxim Levy, who heads the Gesher Knesset faction, said Gesher would leave the government if the budget is approved in its current form. Gesher claims the recommendations will hit the weakest members of society.

Katsav also voted against the proposals because he felt they would affect the poorest elements.

"There is nowhere in my ministry where I can make any cuts," said Yishai, whose ministry is facing an NIS 38 million additional cut.

Despite a promise to the contrary by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu on the eve of the meeting, the defense budget will be cut by 0.5 percent. Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai agreed to this, "but he was very pained to do so," according to Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky.

Prior to the meeting, Education Minister Zevulun Hammer said he would vote against the proposals, because of the intention to cut some NIS 250m. from his budget. However, in a show of sympathy led by Sharansky, all the other ministries agreed to dig deeper into their own pockets to ensure the education budget is only cut by 0.65%, instead of the initial 1.3%.

The eight-hour meeting was "very difficult," according to Finance Minister Dan Meridor, who successfully has steered the initial NIS 4.9b. cut through its first reading in the Knesset. Before the meeting, he said the next 24 hours would be the toughest this government has faced, and could be its strongest test during its term in office.

During their presentation to the cabinet, Finance Ministry officials said the additional cut is essential to prevent a slowdown in growth. (Continued on Page 9)

Mordechai cuts a deal on defense budget

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

DEFENSE Minister Yitzhak Mordechai agreed to the 0.5 percent cut to his NIS 30.5 billion budget, but said his request for an additional NIS 3b. still stands, due to revised intelligence assessments that war is more likely than in the past.

Sources in the Defense Ministry said Mordechai has an understanding with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Dan Meridor to review the Defense Ministry's request for more money in the coming weeks. In return, the sources said, Mordechai agreed to the mainly symbolic cut.

The request contains a demand for NIS 1.6b. for urgently needed materiel and the remainder for other less immediate needs, such as planning and covering expenses for unscheduled operational activity.

Answer for army recruits' poor physical fitness? Jumping rope

IF Sid "Stkippy" Marcus has his way, IDF recruits will be literally skipping their way to physical fitness.

The latest IDF figures show that high schoolers are less fit than ever, and the government is squeezing the defense budget even more. The answer, he said, is obvious: start recruits with jumping rope.

"It wouldn't say it's a poor man's sports, but all you need is a rope and a pair of shoes, and you are on your way," said Marcus, a Jerusalemite originally from Chicago, and, he said, the country's only jump rope instructor.

According to Marcus, author of *The Joys of Rope Skipping*, it is no sissy sport. In his program, you aren't going to find a couple of Golani Brigade sergeants swinging a rope singing "Miss Lucy had a baby..." as a recruit bounces to the rhythm. With Marcus, they'll be doing 140 revolutions per minute. The pros hit over 200 rpm. "Soldiers hate boot camp," Marcus said. "For soldiers, exercise is like food. You need a variety of food to keep you healthy.

Ninety-nine percent of soldiers in the army hate training, and when they finish their three months of boot camp, they quit.

"Rope skipping can be learned and mastered quickly. It's like a sleeping giant waiting and ready to happen. It isn't difficult. I've had students who were so klutzy you wondered how they walked down the street. And they learned to skip rope beautifully.

"If this program were adopted in the army as I proposed, you would have more disciplined, healthier, better soldiers," he said. "Jumping rope builds character. It's for everyone, even for the sergeant behind the desk."

Marcus said even the US Marines train by rope jumping. According to Marcus, there are 150 different steps in rope skipping, and it burns 17 calories a minute in an aerobic workout that uses all the muscle groups.

He said jumping rope is less stressful on the body than running, because you only leap an inch off the ground and 90 percent of the

shock is absorbed by the calf muscles. Running puts three to five times a person's body weight on their legs with each stride.

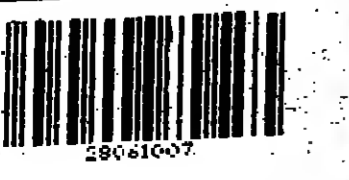
"Israelis have so much anxiety, stress, and pent up nervous energy, and it has to be released. There has to be an outlet for it, and skipping rope is the answer," Marcus said.

He said he received approval to teach rope skipping from the Education Ministry three years ago. His program was to instruct

"graduating high school students to prepare them for the army."

Marcus said his classes are very popular. "It was as if the candyman came to school. They are like monkeys, you can't stop them. This country can be the rope skipping capital of the world."

But so far, the army isn't jumping at his idea. A meeting with a top physical education officer began with a friendly enthusiasm, but ended when he politely showed Marcus the door and suggested he take his idea up with the LIBI fund.



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Poll: Majority favors Beilin-Abbas plan

MK Yossi Beilin, who last week declared his candidacy for the Labor Party leadership, yesterday announced the findings of an opinion poll that supports the understanding he reached with Palestinian Authority official Mahmoud Abbas, which he says could serve as the basis for a permanent settlement.

The main clauses of the Beilin-Abbas plan call for Israel to annex the large blocs of Jewish settlements in return for giving the Palestinians an area close to the Egyptian border and a demilitarized Palestinian state, Beilin told a press conference. Jewish settlers in non-annexed areas would retain Israeli citizenship, but live under Palestinian sovereignty with suitable security protection; the IDF

LIAT COLLINS

would stay on the Jordanian border, and there would be additional security arrangements, such as warning stations.

Palestinian refugees would not be allowed to return to Israel, but could return to the Palestinian state, and Jerusalem would remain united as the Israeli capital, while the Palestinian capital would be Al-Kuds, based on Abu Dis, which is outside Jerusalem's boundaries. The mosques on the Temple Mount would not be under Israeli sovereignty and would be run by the Palestinians.

The survey found some support for the plan even among those who voted for Binyamin

Netanyahu, and just over 50 percent said they were either very much in favor or fairly in favor.

Prof. Efi Ya'ar who initiated and implemented the survey through Modi'in Ezrahi, has said he is interested in carrying out a similar survey among Palestinians.

The survey was carried out among 1,046 Hebrew-speaking adults and did not include Arabs, kibbutz members, or settlers. A slightly majority of those polled had voted for Netanyahu.

Of the total sample, 11.5% were very much in favor; 42.5% fairly in favor; 17.2% fairly against; 12.4% very against; and the rest had no opinion. Of those who said they were fairly in favor, 34.1% had voted for Netanyahu.



A student standing atop a pile of chairs waves a flag at Hebron University yesterday. The students defied a closure order and broke into the campus to resume classes suspended since March, after the wave of suicide bombings. The closure prevented some 1,500 students from resuming their higher education. In October, the university dean defied the closure order by reopening the university at a nearby location and registering students for the new term. (AP)

Grapes of Wrath observers to conduct verification visit

DAVID RUDGE

REPRESENTATIVES of the Grapes of Wrath monitoring committee are to visit the security zone and Tibnit village in south Lebanon today to investigate complaints by Lebanon over the wounding of seven civilians in fighting in the region on Saturday.

The American and French representatives are scheduled to visit the scene of the roadside bomb attack and then go north of the zone to Tibnit and inspect the site where the civilians were hit.

The decision was taken during a meeting yesterday of the five-nation committee established to supervise the understandings, which ended cross-border fighting between Israel and Hizbullah in April.

The committee, composed of representatives from the US, France, Israel, Syria and Lebanon, met at UNIFIL's headquarters in Nakoura to discuss the complaint by Lebanon over the wounding of the civilians by IDF tank fire.

The incident occurred during heavy exchanges on Saturday following a roadside bomb attack by Hizbullah, north of the Beaufort Castle, in which an IDF soldier was killed and another moderately wounded.

During the attack, according to Israel's version, Hizbullah gunmen fired anti-tank missiles at the same IDF patrol that was hit by the roadside bombs. IDF gunners responded to the Sagger missiles by returning fire.

Lebanon, however, has claimed that there was no anti-tank missile fire at the time and that the IDF shelling was unjustified.

Hizbullah has openly accused the committee of being toothless and ineffectual and of being unable to protect Lebanese civilians.

Israel, on the other hand, has accused Hizbullah of systematically breaking the Grapes of Wrath understandings by using villages and public facilities north of the security zone as cover for firing at IDF and South Lebanese Army troops.

The committee, now being chaired by France under a rotation agreement with the US, is expected to continue its discussions on the incident this afternoon and tomorrow.

Six Umm el-Fahm residents arrested on suspicion of aiding Hamas

DAVID RUDGE

SIX Umm el-Fahm residents were arrested yesterday in connection with alleged activities on behalf of an Islamic relief organization suspected of aiding families of Hamas activists involved in planning or carrying out terror attacks.

Detectives from the National Fraud Squad arrested the suspects at their homes early yesterday morning. They are all due to appear before Acre Magistrate's Court this morning for a remand hearing.

They are suspected of working for an organization known as the

"Orphans and Prisoners" association, allegedly used as a means to channel funds to families of suicide bombers.

The arrests follow the closure last week of the association's two offices in Umm el-Fahm and another office of a related body, the Humanitarian Aid Association, in Nazareth.

The offices were closed by police under orders signed by OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine. At the time,

police did not confiscate any documents, but sealed off the offices.

Similar action was taken at the beginning of the year against another Islamic relief association in Nazareth by orders of then-prime minister and defense minister Shimon Peres. In that case, police confiscated scores of documents and other material from the office, which was closed.

In all of the cases, the organizers have maintained that the bodies were involved in humanitarian work, giving help to orphans and needy families in Gaza and the West Bank.

Settlers complain of Arab vandalism at Machpela Cave

HERB KEINON

A MEZUZA was ripped off a doorway to the Machpela Cave, and an attempt was made to break into a locked bookcase and the ark holding Torah scrolls inside the cave, Hebron settlement activists said yesterday.

A police spokesman said the security services are looking into the incident.

According to Orit Shtrick, a spokeswoman for the settlement, Jews who went to the cave in the morning found that a mezuzah had been ripped off the main entrance. In addition, she said that a bookcase containing holy books in the Ya'akov Hall was damaged, and that a video camera monitoring the cave recorded an unsuccessful attempt in Ya'akov Hall to break into the ark holding the Torah scrolls.

The Jewish half of the cave is generally closed to Moslems, but Sunday the entire cave was open

exclusively to Moslems because of the holy day marking Mohammed's ascent to heaven.

The ark has been locked and reinforced with iron since 1977, when Palestinians destroyed a number of Torah scrolls and prayer books in the cave.

Hebron settlement spokesman David Wilder said that Sunday's vandalism has to raise questions about security in the cave. "If they could not catch the Arabs when they were vandalizing the Jewish side of the cave, it raises questions about what they may be doing on their side of the cave," he said.

In a related development, the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza decided to lobby the Likud's coalition partners to get them to condition their support for the budget on "canceling the decrees of the previous

government designed to dry up the settlements."

"It took [Shimon] Sheves exactly 10 days to discriminate against the settlers. Why is it taking the government six months [to reverse the situation]," said council chairman Pinhas Wallerstein.

Sheves, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office under Yitzhak Rabin, drew up a plan that took a variety of preferential breaks from the settlements.

The council also instructed its director-general, Aharon Domh, to draw up a plan spelling out ways to stop what it says is massive illegal Arab building in the territories still under Israeli control.

Settlement leaders have been complaining for months that whereas every new balcony built in the settlements needs a permit, the Palestinians are building at a rapid pace with little or no government interference.

King Hussein donates \$200,000 for carpets at Dome of Rock

WORKERS started laying 1,700 square meters of flower-patterned Turkish carpets - a \$200,000 gift from Jordan's King Hussein - in the Dome of the Rock yesterday.

Hussein considers himself the guardian of the Moslem holy sites in Jerusalem, a claim that has put him in competition with the Palestinians and Saudi Arabia.

The purple-and-red carpets arrived in time for the Moslem fasting month of Ramadan, which begins in January.

The new carpets replace Iranian ones that date back from before the Six Day War in 1967. Two years

ago, Hussein paid \$6.5 million to cover the mosque's dome with nearly 180 pounds of 24-karat gold.

The Dome of the Rock and the adjacent Al-Aksa Mosque are administered by the Islamic Trust, or Wakf. Jordan controls the Wakf, paying the salaries of Moslem clergymen and teachers.

The arrangement continued after the 1967 war. In its 1994 peace treaty with Jordan, Israel recognized Hussein's special status concerning the holy sites. However, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat has been trying to diminish the Jordanian influence since he took the reins of the PA in 1994.

Hussein has said that he will hand over the guardianship to the Palestinians once they are properly established. (AP)

Aliya efforts in Yemen have small results

DESPITE efforts to bring an end to the Diaspora in Yemen, only some two dozen Jews from there immigrated to Israel over the past year, Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Arye Gamliel said yesterday.

Over the past three years, all but some 300 Jews left Yemen, joining the vast majority of the community, which had been airlifted to Israel in the Fifities in Operation Magic Carpet.

Gamliel said at a meeting of the

Knesset's Immigration and Absorption Committee yesterday that the ultra-Orthodox Satmar community had sent representatives to Yemen who were thwarting efforts to bring the remaining Yemenite Jews to Israel.

Some 10 youths who had been attending Satmar institutions in New York had returned to Yemen, he said, and were living there without their parents.

However, the community's condition was described as good.

BATSHEVA TSUR

Committee head Naomi Blumenthal called on Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron to send rabbinic representatives to check what was happening to the community in Yemen.

"We can't just give in to the Satmars," she told the committee.

Meanwhile, the committee learned, many of the newcomers are having a hard time here. The majority of the Yemenite immigrant children are studying in religious boarding schools, representatives of the local councils told the committee. Many of them are only four years old, but are

already sleeping away from home.

In Rehovot, where there is a large concentration of new immigrants from Yemen, more than 50% of those under 12 years old have been sent to boarding schools, according to Ophir Rubinstein of the Rehovot municipality.

That is because some of the parents were paid to send their children away, MK Yossi Sarid (Meretz) charged.

Rubinstein also said that Shas representatives had prevented municipal inspectors from entering Shas-run kindergartens to examine the situation of the immi-

grant children. Gamliel then agreed to a proposal from the committee that a special team be set up to look into this.

There are 35 Yemenite families in the Oshiot quarter of Rehovot which are living under terrible conditions of poverty, Rubinstein added. MK Eitan Kavel (Labor) warned that the immigrants' economic situation could lead to an explosion.

Blumenthal noted that their mortgage loans had not been updated. This prompted the committee members to call on the Treasury to provide easier mortgage terms for these immigrants.

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Children, Daniel, Marlon and Laura
Brother, Jonathan and Chama Sheink
Sister, Jane and Sam Meertdin
and grandchildren

50th ship of immigrants arrives from former USSR

DAVID RUDGE

NEARLY 300 immigrants from the former Soviet Union disembarked from the *Dimitry Shostakovich* passenger ship at the Haifa port yesterday. They are the fiftieth group to sail here from the Black Sea port of Odessa in an immigration-by-sea project funded by the international Christian organization, the *Ebenezer Emergency Fund*.

A reception was held at the Haifa port passenger terminal to celebrate. Senior officials from the Ports and Railways Authority, the Jacob Caspi shipping agents firm, the Absorption Ministry, the Haifa Port, the Ebenezer Fund and volunteer helpers, as well as *Jerusalem Post* President and Publisher Yehuda Levy, welcomed the new immigrants with Hanukka gifts and doughnuts.

The Ebenezer Fund's international coordinator, Gustav Scheller, said more than 12,000 new immigrants had made the exodus from the former Soviet Union since the project began in 1991.

NEWS IN BRIEF

91 injured in traffic accidents
Ninety-one drivers, passengers and pedestrians were wounded in road accidents yesterday. Magen David Adom crews around the country transported the injured to various hospitals. *Itm*

Palestinian journalists to get entry permits
Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu decided yesterday to grant 120 special entry permits to Palestinian journalists, who have had difficulty covering events in Israel over the past few years. The permits are to be issued by the security authorities, in coordination with the liaison offices. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Hefetz: Arnon affair mishandled
Police Insp.-Gen. Assaf Hefetz, after reviewing all the facts regarding the arrest of Hebron Jewish community spokesman Noam Arnon on Shabbat, has concluded that the matter could have been handled differently.

"There is no doubt that the policemen in the district work under difficult conditions and do fine work in maintaining law and order, but they must also do this with sensitivity, especially in a place like Hebron. The lessons from this affair will be learned," he said in a statement issued yesterday. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Supreme Court hears Korman's appeal
The Supreme Court heard Nahum Korman's appeal against his remand yesterday, but will issue its decision only at a later date. Korman, a security officer of the settlement Betar, is being charged with beating to death Hilmi Shoushi, 11, while chasing a group of rock-throwing Arab youths. His attorney, Yair Golan, argued that Korman cannot be considered dangerous, as the killing was certainly not premeditated. *Evelyn Gordon*

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Tamir Segal, director of Visa I.C.C.'s business development department receives an award from Lt.-Col. Enrico Azzit to mark the company's ongoing support of LIBI.

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Sharaf cut to

Gesher the coalition

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Sharansky takes extra cut to help education

DAVID HARRIS

THERE has been widespread praise for Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, who offered to implement an additional cut in his budget to minimize the cut to the education budget. After Sharansky's gesture, others, at Finance Minister Dan Meridor's invitation, followed suit.

The effect of the newly approved NIS 1.8 billion cut in next year's budget will be felt in every ministry. In real terms the cut will total NIS 1.2b., with the remaining NIS 600 million coming from increased revenues.

The social service ministries - Health, Labor and Social Affairs, Absorption, and Religious Affairs - will each have to implement a 1.3 percent cut, on top of that already approved by the government in July. The Education Ministry should have also undergone such a cut, but after an impassioned plea from Minister Ze'evulun Hammer, the cabinet unanimously agreed to halve the cut to 0.65%, or NIS 125 million.

"This was the one thing each and every one of us thought we had to support," Sharansky said last night.

The economic ministries - Industry and Trade, Transport, National Infrastructure, Science, Tourism, Agriculture, Interior, and Housing - will each sustain a 3% cut.

Despite rumors to the contrary, Meridor and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu decided to lead by example, including their own offices in the list of those

BUDGET CUTS			
Each ministry will have to make additional cuts, following yesterday's cabinet decision:			
Defense:	NIS 150m.	Agriculture:	NIS 38m.
Interior:	NIS 126m.	Health:	NIS 26m.
Education:	NIS 125m.	National Infrastructure:	NIS 23m.
Industry and Trade:	NIS 102m.	Tourism:	NIS 22m.
Treasury:	NIS 65m.	Absorption:	NIS 22m.
Housing and Construction:	NIS 83m.	Transportation:	NIS 20m.
Foreign:	NIS 45m.	Internal Security:	NIS 18m.
Justice:	NIS 43m.	Religious Affairs:	NIS 17m.
Labor and Social Welfare:	NIS 38m.	PM Office:	NIS 13m.
		Environment:	NIS 8m.
		Science:	NIS 6m.
		Communications:	NIS 3m.

hardest hit. The others to face 5% cuts are Justice, Foreign Affairs, Environment, and Communications.

The only other cut could prove to be one of the most controversial, and is the clearest example of Netanyahu going back on his word.

Speaking to the nation in a live television broadcast on Sunday night, Netanyahu said there would be no additional cut to the defense budget. However, this morning Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai indicated he would be prepared to concede another 0.5% "for the good of the country as a whole." He did warn that, from a military perspective, every additional cut could be potentially disastrous for future security.

Each minister will be respon-

Each ministry also faces a 10% cut in its purchasing power.

Additionally, the government will issue 1,000 new taxi licenses, which will raise in excess of NIS 35m. Additional income will come from the sale, approved by the cabinet some three weeks ago, of some 3,000 government-owned apartments across the Green Line.

While there are likely to be claims to the contrary in the coming days, Meridor, Treasury Director-General David Brodet, and budget department head Ram Kroll denied there are any new taxes or tax increases in the proposals. Meridor did admit, when pressed, that given the inevitable reduction in state-run services, the tax burden would be proportionately higher.

If all of the cuts are successfully implemented, the senior Treasury officials argued, growth will reach 4% next year, followed by an average of 5.1% over the following three years; private per capita consumption will increase 1.8% next year and 2.9% thereafter; goods and service exports will grow by 7.1% in 1997 and then 7.2% until 2000; and unemployment will rise to 6.9% next year, before falling back to 6.5% by the end of the century. The unemployment figures are some 0.3% higher than those predicted in July, but that is only because of a change in the Central Bureau of Statistics calculation methods, according to Treasury head of economic research and state revenue administration Tsipi Gal-Yam.

Labor: This won't be the budget

EVELYN GORDON

THE 1997 budget proposal bears no relation to what will happen in reality, the Labor Party faction charged yesterday.

"We will oppose this budget, because it is a paper budget only," said party leader Shimon Peres at a faction meeting yesterday. "I don't believe the decisions which have been made will actually be implemented... It is very difficult to cut NIS 7 billion."

Peres said he was especially worried by the cuts in the defense budget.

Former finance minister Avraham Shohat, who heads the opposition in the Knesset Finance Committee, said the budget seemed very unlikely to pass by December 31. The new cuts approved by the cabinet yesterday will reach the committee only next week at the earliest, he noted, and will force the committee to reopen its discussion on many of the ministry budgets which it had already finished. Furthermore, he said, the committee has not yet discussed some of the key elements of the NIS 4.9 billion cut already submitted, such as fees for doctors' visits, and it has already rejected another major element: the cut in child allowances.

Finally, he charged, some of the revenue-raisers included in the NIS 1.8 billion of cuts approved yesterday, such as the sale of empty apartments in the territories, will not actually raise any money by the time mortgage grants and infrastructure work is factored in.

NEWSLINE
with HAIM BEN-SHAHAR

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu came into the cabinet meeting saying he wouldn't cut the defense budget and hinting he favored increasing it, as Minister of Defense Yitzhak Mordechai wants. In the end, the cabinet approved a 0.5 percent cut to the NIS 30.45 billion defense budget. What kind of message does this give?

This is not a significant figure, but nevertheless reflects the reality that economically we cannot have our cake and eat it too. If we are moving toward a more aggressive foreign policy and less certainty with respect to the peace process, then we need to increase the defense budget. But the reality is that with all the pressure on the government, it cannot find the resources to do so. That is a good reason why it has to make up its mind regarding the direction it wants to take with the peace process.

How does this cut correlate with the defense budgets over the past two decades?

Since the peace treaty with Egypt, we have seen the defense budget drop from over 20% of the Gross Domestic Product to about 11% today. But with the huge increase in the GDP and government expenditures, the defense budget remained constant in real terms. In light of this, the real value of IDF salaries and operating costs have gone up, so that cut to other items, such as acquisitions and R&D, have made up the balance.

Do the cuts put the IDF's defensive capabilities at risk? It is not a meaningful cut.

The defense minister voted for the cut, but his people are saying that their request for additional billions to meet increasing threats still stands.

This is sending mixed signals. The cut is symbolic and the defense minister probably sees the whole picture. He is saying he needs a substantial budget increase and he supported the cut only as a way of collaborating with the prime minister in his present efforts. But if he ends up getting more money, it will defeat the whole cut.

Are you saying that economic realities are now going to dictate foreign policy?

The objective situation is that one has to choose. If the government chooses the road of great uncertainty with regard to the peace process, it must spend more on defense. And this can be done only if it cuts more into social services. It's an either/or situation.

Arieh O'Sullivan

Welfare groups step up opposition to cuts

A coalition of 60 social welfare groups said yesterday that it will fight the planned cuts to the best of its ability. Campaigning in the Knesset while the cabinet was immersed in its deliberations, representatives of the Organizations for the Struggle Against Budgetary Cuts met with MKs to explain to them the likely implications for average people in the lower and middle classes.

The groups involved represent women, Arabs, children, pensioners and development town residents.

David Harris

Gesher threatens to leave coalition over budget

DAVID HARRIS

GESHER yesterday threatened to leave the government if the final 1997 budget attacks the socially weak, faction chairman Maxim Levy said.

Speaking while the cabinet was locked in its marathon meeting to approve the additional NIS 1.8 billion cut, Levy said his brother, Foreign Minister David, would vote against what he described as an "intolerable package of measures."

"If the budget is implemented as it is now, we will not be part of the government," said Levy, who also chairs the Labor and Social Affairs Committee.

Referring to Sunday's meeting between Gesher MKs and Finance Minister Dan Meridor, Levy said: "There was absolutely no basis for

rapprochement," adding that no compromises were reached.

Asked to specify which cuts would affect the socially weak, Levy said every shekel cut is a further attack. By cutting the education, social affairs, and construction budgets, the government is taking state money away from those who need it most.

In particular, Gesher is opposed to cuts aimed at housing, child benefits, discharged soldiers, and older people, and an increase in *arnona* (municipal rates), public transport fares, and water prices.

"You cannot provide housing and so on for new immigrants and baredim, yet give nothing to the other weaker classes," Levy added.

Head of the coalition faction in the Finance Committee Silvan Shalom told reporters the committee will not accept the proposals if they include reductions in child allowances. Shalom had informed Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Meridor of the committee's opposition before the cabinet meeting. They promised, he said, to present alternative proposals.

Yisrael Ba'aliya is now most likely going to support the government in the second and third readings of the budget, according to MK Yehi Siam. "The chances are greater now that we'll support the government in the vote, but first we want to see the more general budget and its implications," he said.

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Swiss parliament paves way for Holocaust probe

BERNE (Reuters) - Switzerland's parliament yesterday cleared the way for a federal decree that will start a sweeping study of Swiss financial dealings with Nazi Germany and the fate of Jewish wealth stashed in Swiss banks during the Holocaust.

Parliament's upper chamber paved the way to passage by withdrawing a controversial amendment giving individuals who feared being maligning in the study the right to ask the Swiss high court to block their names from being published.

The decree was expected to win final approval in one more vote by both chambers, said Lili Nabholz, chairwoman of the lower house's legal committee.

"It should come into effect by Friday," she said.

Critics, including the head of the Swiss Jewish Federation, Rolf Bloch, had said the amendment would create the impression of a cover-up by allowing individuals to hide their

names in a report due at the latest five years after the study begins.

The decree, backed unanimously by parliament's lower house and the cabinet, will create a panel of independent historians, financial and legal experts empowered to lift tight banking secrecy rules for a historical accounting of Swiss commerce with Nazi Germany.

Swiss purchases of Nazi gold were a crucial source of funds to finance the German war effort.

It will also review how much wealth was deposited with Swiss banks and other financial companies by Jews and other victims of Nazi persecution, and whether the Swiss have done enough to identify the lost assets of those killed in the Holocaust.

The commission will have full access to bank archives from the war era, but bank secrecy will not be lifted from modern accounts.

The commission of about seven people, including Jewish experts and two or three non-Swiss, should be appointed and starting work at the beginning of next year, Foreign Minister Flavio Cotti has said.

To speed up the process, parliament is expected to pass a provision this week cancelling a three-month waiting period applied to most new legislation to allow for referendum calls under the Swiss system of direct democracy.

The decree follows recent international speculation, and demands for a search from the World Jewish Congress, that Switzerland could still be hoarding Nazi gold or holding millions of dollars in assets of people who perished during Hitler's reign of terror.

The commission is separate from an international panel set up by Swiss banks and world Jewish groups last May to search for any lost Holocaust accounts and help return the assets to their rightful owners.

Key sex charges dropped against Belgian deputy PM

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - Belgium's highest court has rejected as without foundation the main allegations against Deputy Prime Minister Elio Di Rupo of having sex with under-age boys, the news agency Belga said yesterday.

There was no immediate confirmation of the report, for which the Belgian news agency cited informed sources.

Di Rupo had always denied the allegations that he had sex with boys below the country's legal age of consent of 16 years, and Belgian newspapers had questioned the reliability of the sole identified witness against him.

But Belga said that although the

original allegations by one witness against Di Rupo had been rejected, new evidence that was handed to the Cour de Cassation, Belgium's highest court, last Wednesday still had to be evaluated.

Parliament President Raymond Langendries earlier told reporters the court had raised a procedural issue relating to the new evidence, but he gave no further details.

However, Belga said the problem was that a special parliamentary commission had transmitted the new evidence directly to the court rather than passing it via the whole parliament.

This meant that the process had to begin all over again.

The Di Rupo affair was yet another nail in the coffin of Belgian public confidence, reeling since the arrest in mid-August of rapist Marc Dutroux and the subsequent rescue of two young girls and discovery of the bodies of four more.

Revelations of police and judicial bungling in earlier investigations in the hunt for missing children have further fuelled public anger and disgust.

In October more than 250,000 people took to the streets of Brussels in support of the victims and their families in a demonstration that crossed the country's language divide and rapidly turned into a show of anger at the system.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vranitzky says no to alliance with far right
VIENNA (Reuters) - Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky yesterday quashed dissenting voices in his Social Democratic Party when he ruled out any move to cozy up to a far right hooped by success in European Parliament elections in October.

The Social Democrats, in power in Austria alone or in coalition since 1945, slumped to an all-time low in the European Union's parliamentary elections, securing just 60,000 votes more than Joerg Haider's far right Freedom Party (FPÖ).

US home Web use doubles in year
NEW YORK (Reuters) - Home use of the Internet's World Wide Web has more than doubled in the last year, with about 11 percent of US households claiming to have used the Web in the last month, according to a study by PC-Meter.

PC-Meter said 11% of all 98.7 million US households was equal to about 11 million homes, which is up from 4.4% (or 4.3 million) a year ago. In addition, 13.9% of households claimed to have used some type of Internet access service in the last month.

Twenty-five percent of these home Web users now visit shopping sites, PC-Meter's audience rating reports show. According to PC-Meter's audience rating report, of the cybershoppers, men represented the highest percentage of users. In the month of September, for example, 62.8% of Web surfers were men and 37.2% were women.

Gielgud named to Order of Merit
LONDON (Reuters) - British actor Sir John Gielgud was given one of the country's highest honors yesterday when Queen Elizabeth appointed him a member of the Order of Merit.

Buckingham Palace said Gielgud, 92, would become the 24th member of the order, which is bestowed as a personal gift by the queen to people who have made exceptional contributions to the arts, science, and the armed forces.

The order, founded in 1902 by King Edward VII, is limited to 24 members. Gielgud fills the vacancy created by the death of Sir Frank Whittle, inventor of the jet engine, in August 1996.

Mom sells home to pay son's sex-phone bill
BOGOTA (Reuters) - A Colombian mother has been forced to put her home up for sale after her 12-year-old son ran up a \$12,000 phone bill in one month by calling international sex lines, television news said on Sunday. Single mother Ana Maria Martinez said her son, Juan Carlos, called sex talk numbers in Israel, Lebanon and Spain for as long as 30 minutes at a time after seeing advertisements in pornographic magazines. "I don't know what I'm going to do. I am selling our house, but even that isn't worth 12 million pesos [\$12,000]," Martinez said.

Berlin gays call for Holocaust memorial

BERLIN (Reuters) - Berlin gays called over the weekend for their own memorial to mark the Nazis' attempt to wipe out homosexuals, stirring a lengthy debate over the building of a monument to Holocaust victims in the city of the perpetrators.

The contentious discussion of how, or whether, to commemorate each of the groups targeted in Hitler's genocide has grown louder as each community attempts to raise awareness of its persecution under the Third Reich.

The political will for such memorials in the cash-strapped city, however, has waxed and waned as demands for Germany to pay homage to those killed in the camps have collided with municipal and federal budget worries.

Estimates of the number of so-called "pink triangle" victims of the Holocaust, named for the symbol homosexuals or those suspected of being homosexual were forced to wear in the concentration camps, range between 10,000 and 15,000.

The German federal government has already donated a site, a short walk from the Reichstag parliament building, and pledged to pay one-third of the cost of a 15 million mark (\$11 million) memorial for Jews killed in the Holocaust.

But the country has held a fiercely emotional debate about whether to commemorate other victims, and how to do it in a way that does not mask their individual persecution.

Berlin has one large-scale monument to the victims of "fascism and imperialism" in the Neue Wache (the New Guardhouse), but it has faced strong criticism that the monument erases the distinctions between the Nazis' victims.



At the White House gala for the Kennedy Center, award winners are honorees (from left) Maria Tallchief, Jack Lemmon, Johnny Cash, Benny Carter and Edward Albee.

Clinton honors Kennedy Center winners

WASHINGTON (AP) - Honoring five giants of the American entertainment world, President Bill Clinton on Sunday jokingly compared his own saxophone skills with those of 89-year-old jazz composer Benny Carter.

"From the start, his fellow musicians said the way he played the saxophone was amazing," Clinton said at a White House reception. "They say that about me too, but I don't think they mean it in quite the same way."

Clinton told of meeting the king of Thailand, himself a jazz musician, on his recent trip to the Far East.

"Three minutes after I was introduced, the king asked: 'Do you know Benny Carter? He was just here,'" Clinton recalled.

Carter was one of five winners of the 19th annual Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts awards for lifetime contributions to the nation's culture. The others were actor Jack Lemmon, playwright Edward Albee, country singer Johnny Cash, and ballerina Maria Tallchief.

Clinton told of Tallchief bringing American dance to the world, "even to Moscow at the height of the Cold War."

Tallchief, 72 next month, is the half Osage Indian who was Rudolf Nureyev's partner when he debuted on American television after defecting from the Soviet Union 35 years ago. She was long the collaborator - and for five years the wife - of George Balanchine, founder of the company that became the New York City Ballet.

Of Lemmon, Clinton said: "He has taken the kind of risks that elevate an actor's work from the unremarkable to the unforgettable."

Cash, he said, "has made country music, music not just for our country but for the entire world."

Albee's plays "have invigorated the American theater and inspired

a new generation of playwrights to do the same," Clinton said.

Carter's record as a saxophonist goes back to the 1920s. Carter became a composer, band leader, teacher, arranger, and a path-breaker in Hollywood. He was the first black to write musical scores for American films.

An actor from the age of 4, Lemmon had been nominated eight times for an Academy Award before he was 60.

Cash, 64, has been called country music's greatest star. His family endured years of sharecropping and tragedy. Some of his biggest successes have dealt with prison life.

Albee, 68, has won three Pulitzer prizes.

British lord moves to give women equal rights to throne

LONDON (Reuters) - British Lord Jeffrey Archer took the first step yesterday to introduce legislation that would allow women equal rights to men in the royal line of succession.

The measure would ensure that

if the now teenage Prince William, the son of Prince Charles, were to have a daughter first, she would become queen, even if she had a younger brother.

Under a centuries-old British

rule, male children currently take precedence over their sisters in their right to the throne.

He said nothing would happen in practice for 50 or 60 years, until one of Prince William's children succeeded him.

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Syria's standing

IN 1991, the world watched in awe as the United States-led coalition restored the sovereignty of Kuwait by forcibly ejecting Iraqi forces.

Today, the Arab world is clamoring for a sovereign Palestinian state, while at the same time, a veteran Arab state stands occupied by two foreign armies, its sovereignty practically nonexistent, and the Arab world remains indifferent at best.

Lebanon has made great strides in rebuilding itself since the end of the civil war. Entire sections of Beirut, rendered into a moonscape by years of fighting, have been leveled and the rubble used to extend the city into the sea.

All this has been accomplished by way of a Faustian bargain with Syria.

Syria is occupying Lebanon with 40,000 troops, some positioned in Beirut itself. This occupation is in flagrant violation of the Taif Accords of October 1989, brokered by the Arab League in Taif, Saudi Arabia.

The Lebanese government cannot take any major decisions without Syrian approval, including decisions in international forums. Lately, Syria has been tightening its vice-like grip further by restricting television and radio stations, provoking protests in the capital.

But all this is child's play compared to the greatest Syrian violation of Lebanese sovereignty — the use of Lebanon as a launching pad for a proxy war against Israel.

According to Ha'aretz, Israeli military sources report that dozens of planes loaded with weapons from Iran, destined for Hizbullah, have landed in Damascus over the last few months. At the same time, Hizbullah is claiming that it will no longer be restrained by the understandings reached after Operation Grapes of Wrath, implying that Katyusha attacks on northern Israel could resume.

Syria, of course, claims that it is only helping Hizbullah resist Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. The truth of the matter is that Israel badly wants to leave Lebanon, while Syria is happy to have it stay there.

Both the current and former Israeli governments have had a standing offer to the Syrians:

Let the Lebanese army move south and disarm Hizbullah, and Israel will leave Lebanon. Syria's refusal to accept this deal reveals that its real reason for allowing Hizbullah's arming has nothing to do with evicting Israel from Lebanon.

All the parties involved understand that Syria is simply using Hizbullah to put military pressure on Israel to force concessions on the Golan Heights. Since the Netanyahu government seems less forthcoming on the Golan than the previous administration, Syria is expected to increase the pressure by turning up the heat in Lebanon.

During the Cold War, the US and the Soviet Union fought each other through proxy wars in Afghanistan, Angola, Nicaragua, and Vietnam, to name a few. In none of these wars, however, was the territory of one of the superpowers under attack or threat. What is more, the struggle was over the type of government in the country where the war was fought, not over territorial claims by an outside party.

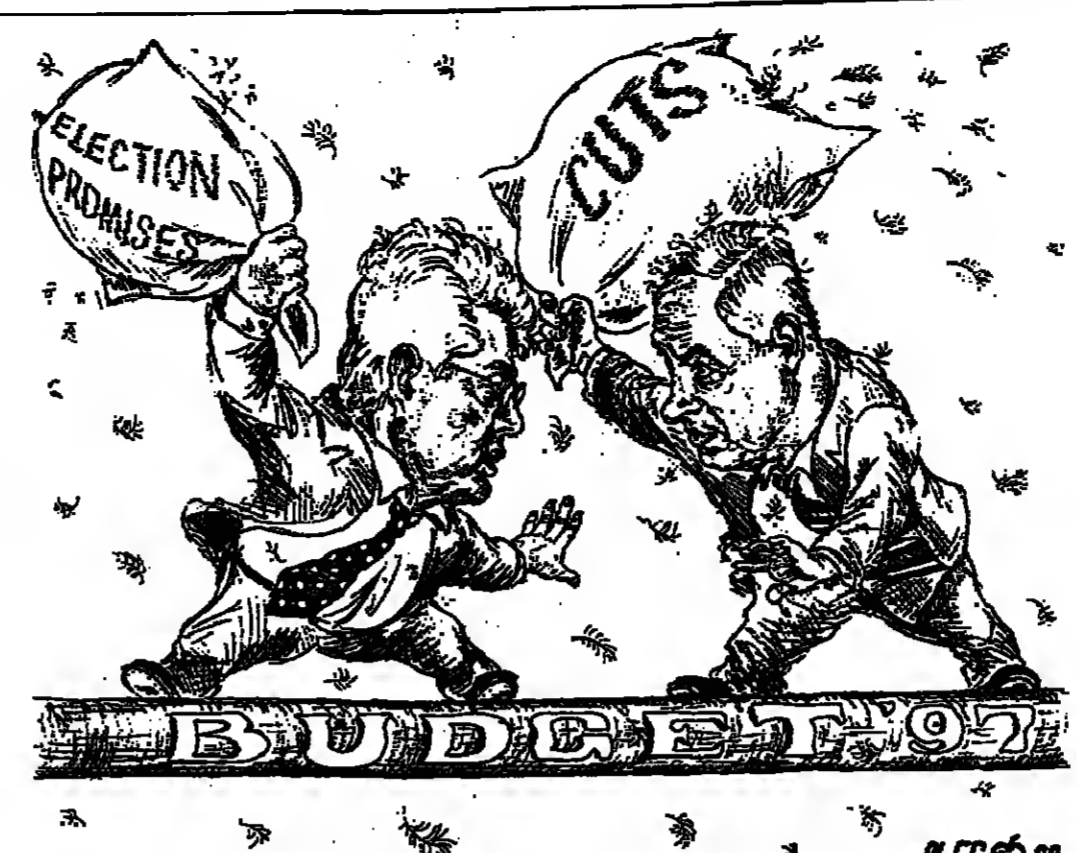
In Syria's proxy war against Israel, Israelis fight and die to protect their country from direct terrorist and rocket attacks. Syria and Iran, on the other hand, can wage war free from any military threat and at the expense of a "brother" nation's people, territory, and sovereignty.

At least that is how the game has been played up until now. When Binyamin Netanyahu came into office, he signaled that these rules would change. Syrian forces would henceforth risk paying a price for fueling a proxy war against Israel. Syria responded by shifting its forces closer to Israel, and a cycle of threatening rhetoric began.

For some reason, it is considered naive, or bad form, to suggest that Syria ought not to be able to sponsor military attacks against Israel while enjoying complete immunity from any Israeli response. Given this conventional wisdom, Israel cannot retaliate against Syria without risking an escalation for which it will be blamed.

Netanyahu was right to reject this situation. But to change the rules, Israel must first lay the groundwork. It must make clear to the world Iranian planes full of arms land in Damascus and how those arms are used by Hizbullah in southern Lebanon. Syria's deniability, thin at best, must be removed. The US should be pressed to speak out for Lebanese sovereignty and against Syria's military bullying.

The US should not allow Syria to continue to enjoy its status as a peace process participant in good standing, while engaging in a proxy war against Israel. And the world should not turn a blind eye as the sovereign nation of Lebanon is sacrificed to further Syria's negotiating position.



A terrible time for joy

ALONG with many others I worry that the redeployment in Hebron will signal the eruption of violence on the radical right. What concerns me no less, however, is that it may signal the eruption of left-wing celebration.

Such an expression of joy would indicate something very significant: that before we physically withdrew from the city we had already abandoned both our spiritual heritage and our secular Zionist aspirations.

Don't get me wrong. A long-time regular at Peace Now demonstrations, I am completely in favor of redeployment and the speedy continuation of the peace process in full compliance with the Oslo accords.

But I am also an observant Conservative Jew with deep roots in our history and our tradition, and I can declare without embarrassment that our ties to Hebron are an indelible part of my consciousness.

We should all be leaving Hebron with a heavy heart. The city belongs to me as much as it does to the settlers in Beit Hadassah. My fear, however, is that these sentiments aren't shared by many with whom I stand shoulder to shoulder in rally after rally.

What has been happening with respect to religion in this Jewish state of ours is now happening with regard to land as well.

With the Orthodox establishment aggressively claiming exclusive ownership of the Torah, many people who do not feel themselves bound by classic Jewish law have decided to wash their hands of the whole business. "If this is what Judaism really is," they reason, "we want nothing to do with it."

Now the ultra-nationalist camp is claiming exclusive ownership of Eretz Yisrael, arguing vociferously that even the right-wing government they voted into office has no mandate to give away God's given land.

And again, those who do not take God's promises at face value are put off by what is going on. "If land has become more important than peace, even than life itself," they say, "what meaning can it have for us?"

But land is not incidental to

DAVID BREAKSTONE

Jewish identity. So much of who we are as a people is rooted in the relationship of the ancient Hebrews to the territory they came to possess. And the landscape that became embedded in the consciousness of our youth later served to sustain us through countless generations of exile.

At the onset of the Zionist revolution, Rabbi Kook merely put into words what the Jewish heart has always known: "Eretz Yisrael is not something apart from the soul of the Jewish people; it is bound organically to its very life and inner being."

If we do not leave Hebron with pain in our hearts the withdrawal could be the first step in the dismantling of Israel

Mere platitudes? No. Shimon Peres may well have lost the election, because he seemed inured to such sentiments. Even many who applauded his and Yitzhak Rabin's willingness to exchange land for peace were put off by their appearance of being eager to make such a trade.

And one who feels no pain in withdrawing from Hebron, so the argument went, would have no difficulty in dividing Jerusalem.

THE ISSUE is not where to draw the borders of our nation but how to understand the essence of our nationhood. Unfortunately, this is language many who were born into Jewish statehood do not understand. The generation that takes Jewish sovereignty for granted is almost oblivious to the ancient longings which brought about that sovereignty in the first place.

This need not have been the case. Neither the haredim nor today's settlers shaped the modern-day doctrine in which land became a value of mythic proportions. It was an ethos forged by

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TOXIC WASTES

Sir, - Like the duel between David and Goliath where the small tumbled the great, the small organization, the Israeli Union for Environmental Defense (IUED) has brought the mighty complex, Haifa Chemicals, into line. IUED, commonly known as Adam, Teva v' Din, fought legal battles lasting almost three years to a positive conclusion at the end of November.

Highly toxic wastes from Haifa Chemicals had killed all life in the Kishon River and millions of tons had entered Haifa Bay. As a result of the judges' decision, modern waste treatment will ensure that further pollution will cease. Life is expected to return to the Kishon.

The IUED was awarded the highest damages in Israeli history in a case of environmental damage. Haifa Chemicals has agreed to a positive program for change and, hopefully, this will point the way to other polluters of Israel's water, land and air.

Those who would like to support the work of environmental defense and the improvement of the quality of our water, air and land, might like to contact our offices in Tel Aviv at (03) 525-6462 or in Jerusalem at (02) 563-2177.

MARGARET GOTTSTEIN Jerusalem.

STRANGE SCENARIO

Sir, - A religious woman and lesbian - how droll (Sara Bat-Ami, November 24).

The reference to Leviticus concerns of course men and, at the risk of being called a knave or naive, I suggest that nowhere in our holy writings is there any mention or condemnation of such bizarre behavior in the female.

In this strange scenario, how come a husband and children?

DR. GERALD JACOBS Petah Tikva.

EDITORIAL POLICIES

Sir, - I was very happy to read your editorial "Take on the extremists," (November 25). I hope this marks a change from the editorial policies of the past years.

I may even start reading the Post again - instead of getting it only on Mondays for the New York Times Sunday supplement.

Professor L. DIESENDRUCK Netanya.

THE ABRAHAM FUND

Sir, - We are proud that the work carried out by The Abraham Fund was featured prominently in the article by Richard Z. Chesnoff ("Peace works," November 27), but would like to correct one possible misunderstanding in his report.

Our work and funding is solely directed at promoting understanding and cooperation between citizens of Israel. We focus on the challenges facing the Jewish State in which almost 20 percent of its citizens are not Jewish. The Abraham Fund awarded nearly \$1 million in 1996 to projects that further these goals.

The rapid growth and interest in coexistence projects is reflected in the fact that requests for grant applications doubled between 1995 and 1996. It may interest some of your readers that The Abraham Fund is accepting funding applications until December 31, 1996.

It is encouraging to see the topic of coexistence between Jewish and Arab citizens of Israel discussed so extensively on your editorial page and in many recent articles. Please continue your coverage of what many people consider to be the No. 1 issue facing Israel in the coming years.

RACHELLE SCHILO, Director, The Abraham Fund, Israel Operations Jerusalem.

COMMITMENT

Sir, - Uri Avnery ("The peace camp's shame," November 26) calls for "a large community of respected individuals" to wage an "unrelenting ideological battle." I test his particular interpretation of a secular, liberal, individualistic Israeli society be lost forever. Doesn't Avnery realize this battle has been waged for years? When was the last time he watched TV? And yet his fears that his vision of Israeli society will become marginalized seem likely to come true.

Avnery writes in the language of mobilization and commitment, yet the culture he defends militates against commitment of any kind. While the autonomy of the individual is an important value in any

Western culture, the militantly secular and individualist variant that Avnery advocates elevates the individual's regard of his own self and desires to the highest value. This philosophy breeds people who have no time and less concern for the pursuit of values broader than their own narrow selves. Most will treat any call for commitment and dedication to anything other than their personal welfare with skepticism. This is of course had for society; but it also makes Avnery's proposal to create a mass movement of dedicated secular individualists absurd. The people who agree with him will, for the most part, sit in their armchairs, read his fiery words, nod in agreement, and... keep sitting.

Human nature demands a commitment to communal values and ideals no less than to the individual's moral autonomy. People seek meaning in their lives through such values, and naturally seek a social and intellectual framework, such as patriotism or religion, that encourages and legitimates such values. People from the national and religious camp are more dedicated in advocating in public the values they love because those values encourage moral activism; and they are more successful in advocating them because those values strike a chord in others that the creed of secular individualism cannot touch.

YITZHAK KLEIN Ma'aleh Adumim.

A French Kiss

True key

YOASH CHATTO-TSIDDON

YES, the time has come to define both Israel's secure borders and the national status of the Arabs of Judea and Samaria and Gaza.

But one cannot relate to the conflict as if it were happening on some lonely Pacific island instead of in the center of the oil-rich, totalitarian and unstable Islamic Middle East.

The war started by the western Palestinian Arabs against the Jews at the turn of the century ended on May 15, 1948, when seven Arab states invaded the emerging Jewish state.

Since 1948 all our wars have been waged against Arab states. The Arabs of Gaza, Judea and Samaria have played only a very minor part.

Militarily speaking, the intifada wasn't a threat, just a nuisance. But its handling was badly botched by Shamir and Rabin, resulting in a huge political success for Arafat.

The threat against which our borders must be secured comes from outside Palestine. Pan-Arab hostility and crude hatred of Israel has never abated.

We are surrounded by medieval regimes that see our Western, democratic ways, our culture, religion and economy as a threat; we are encircled by what may be the greatest concentration of firepower per mile of frontier the world has ever seen.

Our borders cannot be secured, as has been suggested, by shifting the Green Line eastward to "keep Israeli cities out of mortar range."

OUR military professionals agree, as did Rabin, with the US war college, high-ranking US generals and members of the Russian general staff (whom I hosted in June 1992) that achieving peace - or, in the circumstances, "a state of no war" - can exist only if Israel maintain a high-level (conventional) deter-

rence capability. They further agree that for this Israel has to control the Jordan Valley, the strategic highground in Judea and Samaria and the road network interconnecting with the rear. Also its urban areas must be out of mortar and artillery range.

If deterrence, then, is the sine qua non of peace, any Arab autonomous entity emerging in this pint-sized area can be nothing more than a grouping of separate urban areas with some rural hinterland.

It would be a truncated entity, unable to build a proper army or allow free entry to kin. It would be limited as to foreign policy and in using resources such as water.

Essentially a besieged society, it would be a political powder keg threatening Jordan as well as Israel.

It would, moreover, never be able to grant its citizens their legitimate rights - which is why Rabin was against the establishment of a second Arab-Palestinian state and why Arafat recently suggested on Israel TV's Arabic program that "some relationship" between the Arabs of Judea and Samaria (who were Jordanian citizens until 1988) and those of Gaza and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan "is advisable." This was the idea at Madrid.

Establishing a Palestinian state beside Israel and Jordan simply because communities have drifted apart and have two leaderships would be as logical as keeping the two Germans separated. They were, after all, separated for much longer.

There are problems, of course - of trust, acceptance, unity, goodwill. But whether through design or force of events, an Arabland wouldn't necessarily even survive unless it overwhelmed one of the other Palestinian states, Israel or Jordan, or both.

Arafat's ongoing jihad rhetoric and deeds convey his message clearly to those who listen. King Hussein's civilized dialogue also carries a clear message. Provided there is solid Israeli cooperation and support, a Jordanian embourgeoisement that includes Jordanian autonomous enclaves within Israeli jurisdiction seems the more logical, if less expedient, solution.

This is the key to well-being, to legitimate rights and to stable peace, as well as to a possible confederation of Palestine. There is no place in this scenario for jihad rhetoric, terror or manipulation.

The writer, a former IAF colonel in the IAF reserves, was a member of the Madrid peace mission in 1991.

Exposure of dirty linen

RICHARD Z. CHESNOFF

ALMOST half of Norway's tiny community of 1,600 Jews was slaughtered in Auschwitz. The lucky ones made it to neutral Sweden.

When the survivors returned in 1945 they discovered that most of their family money and belongings were gone - confiscated and disposed of by Norway's own Nazis, the traitorous Quisling government.

Little of that modest but plundered wealth was ever returned; the Jews had even been charged for the costs of their own transport to the death camps. And Norway's postwar government kept most of what was left.

The Jews of Norway are finally seeing the beginnings of justice. At meetings here of the World Jewish Congress Executive, Norwegian officials promised recently that in the wake of a long-overdue parliamentary investigation Norwegian Holocaust victims would be compensated.

It was no coincidence that the world Jewish body had gathered in Oslo, or that Norwegian officials chose their assembly to redress history.

More than 50 years after the Holocaust the worldwide search for its victims' assets has finally begun in earnest - and it is the 82-nation-strong World Jewish Congress, led by Edgar Bronfman, that's leading the global battle for restitution and justice.

One of Europe's basest secrets: It wasn't just the Nazis who robbed the Jews

hunt is extending from Scandinavia to the Balkans. If WJC Secretary-General Israel Singer was late for his family's Thanksgiving lunch in New York, it was because Singer went from Oslo to Stockholm to press the Swedish government to join the WJC in searching local banks for both unclaimed Jewish accounts and Nazi plunder stashed in neutral Sweden.

France is also hearing cries for an overdue accounting of properties and monies stolen by the same Vichy officials who shipped 75,000 Jews to their deaths.

In the Netherlands, where 100,000 Dutch Jews - 90 percent of that centuries-old community - died in Nazi death camps, no one knows to this day what happened to the victims' confiscated wealth. Similar questions are being raised

in Belgium and Luxembourg. Major progress has already been made. Former US Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volker now heads an international commission of "Eminent Persons" charged by both the WJC and the Swiss Banking Association with tracking down the unclaimed accounts of Holocaust victims.

Volker, who went to Oslo for four hours to brief a closed-door meeting of the WJC executive, admitted the Swiss bankers weren't happy about "seeing a lot of linen - dirty or otherwise - being exposed."

Nonetheless, he announced a tough 18-month-long "investigative audit" of the super-secret Swiss banks by three big international auditing firms. It's long overdue.

So was Austria's recent decision to allow the auction sale of 8,000 art objects stolen from Jews and hidden in a monastery near Vienna. Millions from the sale went to help Holocaust survivors.

Eastern Europe still has to account for its plunder. Hungary and Slovakia have begun returning Jewish communal property. But the Baltic states, the Czech Republic and Poland, where millions of Jews lived - and died - are all dragging their feet.

Pressing them to redress the past is a duty. As New York lawyer Menachem Rosensaft, himself the son of Holocaust survivors, told me in Oslo, "We have a historical and moral obligation to the dead and the survivors alike."

(By special permission of the New York Daily News)

Ronnie

The ongoing

Shahar

كتاب من الامم

A French 'Kiss'

THEATER REVIEW
NAOMI DOUDAI

L'Ex-Femme de Ma Vie ("My Eternal Ex-Wife"), a comedy by Yosiane Balasko. Hebrew, Niri Sevigny. Direction, Jack Messinger. Music Amos Hadani. Set, Dvora Morag. Costumes, Ilanit Kabasa. At Hasmita Theater, Old Jaffa.

My *Eternal Ex-Wife*, about yet another of these modern marriages on a difference. First, and above all, it is French. So it goes without saying that the humor, the razzle-dazzle, the slapstick and the sex can never be sloppy, only scarily ironic, never saccharine, only wickedly witty, never innocent but emphatically post-adolescent. In other words, the gap between the sentiment splashed around in *Prelude to a Kiss* and the spirit that rocks this very contemporary, boulevardier, is as wide as the Atlantic Ocean.

Here, a divorced Parisian couple confront each other after an absence of six years. He, once an aspiring literary light, is now the successful author of pornographic potboilers. She, the would-be post-modernist painter, penurious

and pregnant, is reduced to painting people's houses. With the entry of his curio-cute and her crazy shrink, their meeting, fraught with pathos and romantic flashbacks, soon explodes into a zany routine of ribald hilarity.

Dorit Nitai, wan and woeful as the ex-wife, inflicts herself on her bewildered ex with subtle and insistent charm. But Sharoo Alexander, if sorely tried and highly inflamed, partners her with less charisma than could be expected of the impressive photogenic star of so many Israeli films. On the other hand, Maya Bar-Shalom, stunning in scarlet platform sandals, is delightful as the dotty, dimpled girlfriend while Avi Hadash, a shrink in shorts and scarlet suspenders, raises a storm of laughs whenever he appears.

Direction does a fast-paced, tightly woven job, exploiting the Simta's mini studio-stage, around which the audience is seated on three sides, to the greatest possible advantage. Added to an evening of uproarious entertainment is the use of a simple but stylish set and some fabulously funny costumes.



He (Sharon Alexander) writes potboilers; his ex-wife (Dorit Nitai) paints people's houses.

Prince loses his crown

IN TUNE
DAVID BRINN

Emancipation PRINCE (NMC)
How the mighty have fallen. At one time, Prince could do no wrong, releasing some of the finest music of the '80s.

He was always weird, but stacked against the deluge of "Little Red Corvette," "Purple Rain," "Raspberry Beret" and "Kiss," a little weirdness could be tolerated.

In this decade, he's changed his name to a symbol, and it is not only his name that seems to have gone missing, so has most of his talent.

Emancipation, a sprawling three-CD set, is named after freedom Prince has found since severing his ties with Warner Brothers, with the complaint they were stifling his creativity and signing with EMI-Capitol.

If this debut is any indication, it's no wonder Warner reined him in. For *Emancipation* is one of the most self-indulgent discs you'll ever hear: a virtual one-man three-disc show full of vapid funk and rap, and soulless attempts at slick R&B pop.

Occasionally, a melody or keyboard phrase will lurch out of the unimaginative disco-funk drum sequences that dominate 90 percent of the songs. But they are but faint echoes of Prince's highest achievements.

The highlights are all remakes of other artists' songs. "La, La, La" and "Beetcha By Golly Wow" are slow-dance soul, circa 1970s Spinners. And virtually the only rock number is a spirited rendition of Joan Osborne's 1995 ruminative on God, "One of Us."

In the once amusing, now grating Prince vernacular, Don't 4get 2 leave this alone.

Ronnie Peterson - fourth king of the blues

STEVE RODAN

FOR Ronnie Peterson, life started in 1964 with the *Ed Sullivan Show*. His mother woke him up and told the seven-year-old to watch the Beatles on what was then America's favorite entertainment program.

"I remember a lot of screaming," Peterson recalls. "That's about it. The most that a young person could remember at that age was the reaction they were getting: total mayhem. It kind of impressed me that this was something else."

Peterson was hooked and made the guitar, which he had been playing since age four, his life. He hardly ate. He rarely went to school. It was him and his guitar, and America became his stage.

Today, at 39, Israel is his home and Peterson has become the country's most celebrated rock and blues guitarist. Influenced by the three Kings — Albert, B.B. and Freddy — and Stevie Ray Vaughn, and Eric Clapton, he is a premier sessions man who has been on the road with his blues trio. He is about to begin a series of shows at the Camelot festival at Tel Aviv's Camelot pub (16 Rehov Shalom Aleichem) with New York-based blues guitarist Hiram Bullock, who

became prominent on the David Letterman show and is regarded as one of the best in the business.

The two will play nightly from Sunday to Wednesday next week with a final show on December 22. Other artists at the Camelot festival include Danny Litani, Meir Ariel, Azkadi Duchin, Ehud Banai and Walter Blanding.

Peterson recalls his youth as an army brat, the son of a US Army officer stationed in Germany, who moved every two years to a different base. Before The Who smashed their instruments on stage, Peterson opened his forehead on his guitar during an exuberant performance of the Trogs' "Wild Thing."

By age 10, his family was back in the US and Peterson was learning Jimi Hendrix, B.B. King and Eric Clapton note for note. His brother, Ray, played bass. "I would kick myself in my room and play for 20 hours," says Peterson. "If I wanted to learn a song, I would record a tape and then learn it."

At 17, he got a call from TK Records in Florida. R&B artist Benny Latimore had a No. 1 hit and needed a guitarist fast. "I played two licks and they said you're hired," he says. "I went on

the road for five years. One night we're playing for 20,000 people. The next night you're playing in some Southern bar. I was playing with every single major R&B act. I was the only white boy in the whole organization."

Peterson survived the boredom of the road by dabbling in and then becoming addicted to alcohol and drugs. After several years, and failed marriages, he quit.

The turning point came in 1987 when he got a call saying that an Israeli rock singer was looking for musicians for a project. It would involve touring and recording. The artist was Shalom Hanoch.

"At the time, I must confess to being geographically challenged," he says. "I had no idea where Israel was. I myself am not Jewish. All I remember about Israel is seeing Moshé Dayan on TV and remembering how cool he looked. So I had no idea who to expect."

The connection changed his life. Peterson came to Israel for three months and did the album *Rak Ben Adam*. Then came the Hanoch tour, where he fell in love with a woman who worked for the producer and eventually married her.

The tours and recordings returned for several years until 1991 when Hanoch wanted Peterson in Israel for good. "By this time, I was pretty much fed up with Manhattan," he says. "I almost got killed. I almost got mugged and wasted. Another time, I broke an umbrella over the head of a crack dealer. Manhattan takes a lot out of you and doesn't give it back. So, in my first two trips I had a real affinity with the people. Because I'm very pushy and arrogant. It didn't faze me in the least."

The minute he arrived in Israel other artists began to book Peterson. They included Yizhar Ashdod, Mazl Cohen, Danny Robas, Ricki Gal, Gidi Gov and Rami Kleinstein. They all wanted an authentic rock sound. "The fact is I can provide certain things that people here can't do," he says. "I can provide a direct in-your-face kind of sound."

But Peterson wanted to play his own music. His first step was to convince a Tel Aviv club to bring in top artists from the US and play. He teamed up with Yossi Fine, regarded as the leading Israeli jazz musician in the US. A bassist, Fine has

played with such artists as Stanley Jordan and rock stars such as Lou Reed.

From there, Peterson decided he wanted his own band, composed of sabras. Nir Tsidkiyahu, who had finished recording with Genesis, joined on drums, Ziv Harpaz on bass. In 1993, Peterson recorded his first album, *Mind Over Matter*, a rock-blues mix which he financed and was distributed by Hed Artzi.

In the meantime, he was performing about every week. Then last year, following the birth of his son, Eric, he decided he wanted to play just "hard-core" blues. Peterson says he loves Israel, in contrast with "the disdain that Israelis have for their country. I want to be based here. Israel ... gave me a lot of opportunities that I never had. It reminds me of jazz players who moved to Paris."

More sleepy than sleeping

DANCE REVIEW
ORA BRAFMAN

The Sleeping Beauty. The Israel Ballet. Choreographer Berta Yampolsky. At Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center, December 5

The Sleeping Beauty, originally choreographed by Marius Petipa to a score by Tchaikovsky (and first presented in January 1890 in St. Petersburg) is one of the flagship ballets of the 19th century that is still regularly performed. It calls for a large company with an able soloist, a decent budget for the set, and an imaginative choreographer.

The Israel Ballet production by Berta Yampolsky was first performed almost 10 years ago and at that time was considered quite an achievement. But now expectations are understandably higher — especially following the *Beauties*

of guest companies such as The National Ballet of Canada and the Stuttgart Ballet.

Due to lack of enough outstanding soloists, the choreographer inevitably lowered her demands, diluted several variations (fairies, divertissements), took out some flair from the Rose Adagio, and gave up on the pas de deux in Act 3. The costume design by Lydia Pinkus-Gani, particularly in the large-group scenes, left much to be desired, and too many of the costumes remained from the original production (horrid purples and dull peach and browns) — and they were dated even then.

The long-legged guest artist Anna Seidel, as the Princess Aurora, a beauty in her own right, brought some flair, sense of style and radiance to an evening which was otherwise a hit low-key.

The ongoing woes of Woody Allen

TOM GROSS

UPSET that, following a bitter custody battle with his former lover, Mia Farrow, he's not allowed to properly see his children, Woody Allen says he has plans to make a film about his complicated private life.

In an interview with *The New Yorker* magazine, Allen said that though "there's nothing I can really do about it legally... I am going to do something about it publicly. I have a wonderful idea for a kind of documentary that's funny and sad and original."

Allen says he is thinking of calling the film "An Error of Judgment," adding that the error of judgment was the judge's, not his.

Meanwhile the dispute with Farrow over their three children, Dylan, Moses and Satchel, continues. Last Thursday a New York judge gave Allen permission, starting next week, to resume seeing Satchel, who is now nine. But Allen will be allowed to visit his son for only one hour per week, in a therapist's office.

Last year the New York-based Oscar-winning film director was forced to end his weekly meetings with Satchel after Satchel's therapist reported that the boy "dreaded visitation with Allen and suffered from nightmares and stomachaches in anticipation of these visits."

At the time of their split, Farrow accused Allen of sexually abusing Dylan, and although the charges were never proved, Allen's reputation has yet to fully recover. In last week's ruling the judge had harsh words for the director. "Mr. Allen continues in his inability to acknowledge



Woody Allen makes no apologies about his romantic attachment to his former lover's adopted stepdaughter Soon-Yi Prewin. (AP)

his role in contributing to the suffering experienced by his children," he wrote in his judgment.

The judge barred him from spending any time with Dylan, 11, because "her therapeutic situation is still too fragile and unsettled."

On the defensive according to some commentators, Allen has also now said that his four-year relationship with Soon-Yi Prewin, the daughter whom Farrow adopted during her marriage to conductor Andre Previn, is among the best of his life.

Allen, 61, says that he and Previn, 26, have a "wonderful relationship" and a "genuine" love. He says he sees no need to apologize to anyone about his love for Soon-Yi, who is now in graduate school at Columbia University.

In the meantime, Farrow, who has 12 children, most of whom are adopted, appears determined to rid herself of every reminder of Allen. First she renamed Satchel, her child by Allen, Harmon. Then she changed his name to Seamus. Now she's renamed Dylan, the couple's adopted child, Eliza.

Allen, whose real name is Allen Stewart Konigsberg, has been married twice before, to Harlene Rosen and Louise Lasser. He has also had a lengthy relationship with Diane Keaton, who, like Farrow, has starred in many of his films, but who left him for Warren Beatty.

In better news for the beleaguered director, Allen's new movie, a musical called *Everyone Says I Love You*, starring Goldie Hawn and Julia Roberts, received some excellent reviews following its opening in the US last weekend.

Shaham's sweet Stradivarius

CONCERT ROUNDUP

Gil Shaham's recent concerts with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra affirmed his status as one of the world's leading violinists.

His rendition of the Dvorak violin concerto was pure lyricism. The tone of his Stradivarius is sweet, warm, lush and quite mature. He does not immerse himself in pure virtuosity but rather lets the overall ambience of the concerto guide him. And even when Shaham plays the virtuoso, as in Sarasate's *Carmen Fantasy*, he blends the musical fireworks into a very cohesive entity.

The IPO itself was in top form throughout, playing exceptionally well for Japanese maestro Jun'ichi Hirokami. However, Hirokami's rendition of Beethoven's *Symphonic Fantastique* was annoying. He tries, but fails, to be different. By attempting to play it all like a huge larger-than-life drama, he negates

the tender lyricism of the work's first three movements. Hirokami's choice of tempi was questionable all along and his overall conducting was out of balance and out of tune from the real essence of the work. It was more than disappointing, it was quite annoying. Mann Auditorium Tel Aviv, November 27, 30.

Michael Ajzenstadt

An immigrants' new string quartet, consisting of Israel Camerata members (Turi Glukovsky, Omri Tsach, Michael Plaskov and Alexander Sinelnikov), with pianist Gabriela Talrose, offered a demanding program in a chamber-music series devised to acquaint local audiences with newcomer musicians: the piano quintets by Brahms and Schumann. The artists proved that talented

musicians can overcome acoustically difficult conditions. They displayed well-distributed, forceful energies and tempi that sounded just right — except for Schumann's slow movement that was faster than the prescribed *poco largamente* suggested — a finely developed sense for nuances of dynamics, and a remarkable "esprit de corps."

Hopefully, their collaboration will turn out to be not a temporary encounter but develop into a more solidified ensemble, for the enjoyment of larger audiences. *Mevakshi Derech Congregation*, November 30.

Ury Eppstein

Leaning towards the 20th century, the Sinfonietta "Classica No. 3" concert was varied and urbane. Music director Uri Mayer found

plungey and humor in Stravinsky's neoclassic *Dumbarton Oaks* concerto, performed with clarity and focus. Modern French classic Ravel's *Mother Goose Suite* was sensitively shaded and effectively paced. Clearly Mayer and the Sinfonietta are in their element in this repertoire.

A new warm viola sound balance was heard in Elgar's Romantic Serenade for Strings, Op. 20 which witnessed a notable contribution by acting section leader Alexander Vinogradov, a newcomer from the Bolshoi.

In Brahms's symphonic Double Concerto in A minor, the Negev Chamber Orchestra put itself all-out, for its colleague's concertmaster Yaron Prensley, and principal cello Gregory Yanovsky, who gave cogent informed solo performances. *Beersheba Conservatory*, December 7.

Max Stern

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	ON CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	NEW!	1	EHUD BANAI	OD ME'AT
#2	1	2	ENIGMA	LE ROI EST MORT
#3	2	4	SPICE GIRLS	SPICE
#4	4	3	TONI BRAXTON	SECRETS
#5	3	15	PAMI KLEINSTEIN	COLLECTION
#6	7	9	SIMPLY RED	GREATEST HITS
#7	14	37	RITA	COLLECTION
#8	11	3	VIA	SPIRIT OF THE WORLD
#9	8	31	GEORGE MICHAEL	OLDER
#10	9	3	VAYA CON DIOS	BEST OF
#11	13	38	SHLOMO ARTZI	SHANAM
#12	10	3	SNOCOP DOGGY DOG	THE DOGFATHER
#13	21	2	JULIO IGLESIAS	TANGO
#14	NEW!	1	EYFO HAYELED	EYFO HAYELED
#15	18	26	FUGEES	THE SCORE

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week

YITZHAK RABIN



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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Tuesday, December 10, 1996

J. Beer to expand Bank Carmel holding to 58%

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

CARMEL Bank's board of directors has approved the allocation of 24 percent of the bank's shares to its controlling shareholder, Jacques Beer, for NIS 13.1 million, the bank informed the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange yesterday.

The share allocation is intended to increase Carmel's financial capital in order to gain control of Maritime Bank and to complete Beer's control of the bank. The board approved the share allocation at the start of the week.

Beer currently controls 34% of Carmel's shares. The shares will be sold at NIS 3.8 each. Carmel's shares were traded at NIS 3.77 per share at the end of last week.

The share allocation will be completed next month at Carmel's general shareholders' meeting.

Several weeks ago, Carmel's major shareholders entered advanced negotiations with Maritime in an attempt to reach a merger agreement by year end. The merger agreement is part of Carmel's plans to expand its activity, predominantly in the mortgage sector, and to enter commercial banking. The merger is expected to increase the two bank's chances of competing in the sector, currently dominated by the three largest banking groups.

Carmel is among the smallest mortgage and investment banks in the country, while Maritime is one of the smaller commercial banks.

Maritime is controlled by US investment manager Michael Steinhardt, who together with Maritime chairman Shimon Topper holds 37% of the bank's shares.

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Third quarter GDP up 3%

DAVID HARRIS

THE Gross Domestic Product rose a relatively low 3 percent in the third quarter, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday.

In the second quarter GDP grew by 2%, with a 6% rise in the January-March period. GDP is the total value of goods and services in the national economy, plus foreign business operations within the confines of the country. The GDP growth rate is usually the primary indicator of the state of the economy.

There was a relatively high (17%) annual growth rate in the import of goods and services (excluding the imports of military hardware, ships and airplanes) in the third quarter.

Private consumption rose some 8%, with per capita consumption up 5%, compared with a total of 4% for the first two quarters.

Spending on durable goods in the period

showed a 16% increase in annual terms compared with the second quarter. This category includes such items as private motor vehicles, furniture, domestic appliances, televisions, and video recorders.

Private consumption excluding durable goods also rose, by 3% in annual terms, which the Central Bureau of Statistics said is a relatively low growth rate. Expenditure on food rose at an annual 21% per capita, with spending on clothing and footwear up 9%. On the other hand, demand for services dropped 5%, with spending on electricity, fuel, and postal services remaining largely unchanged.

Fixed asset investments (excluding ships and airplanes) grew some 16% in annual terms,

during the third quarter. This came after increases of 5% in the second quarter and 17% in the first.

Investments in the various economic sectors showed relatively high growth, concluding the period with a 28% increase in annual terms. Investments in industrial equipment were up 27%, with spending on land-based industrial vehicles increasing 95%. Expenditure in the construction sector rose 8%, also in annual terms.

Overall spending on residential housing fell 10%.

Exports of goods and services increased some 15%, after a decrease of 12% in the second quarter and increase of 4% in the first. Industrial exports (excluding diamonds) rose at an annual 11%, with diamond exports up 30%. However, agricultural exports decreased 4%.

Regulations for portfolio managers approved

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset Finance Committee finally approved the regulations for a new law requiring the licensing of investment consultants and portfolio managers yesterday. The law was passed a year ago, but because the Treasury had not drawn up the regulations, its implementation has been postponed.

Yesterday, the committee

approved another delay, so the law will now take effect only on July 1.

According to the regulations, both investment consultants and portfolio managers must have NIS 300,000 worth of equity. They must also have insurance against lawsuits, though in some cases they can use a bank guarantee as a substitute.

The insurance must be at least NIS 500,000 for a single consultant, and the higher of NIS 300,000 or 5% of their total assets for either a consulting company or a partnership. For a portfolio manager, it must be the higher of NIS 500,000 or 5% of the value of his total assets. All sums are linked to inflation.

The regulations also require would-be investment consultants and portfolio managers to pass a series of examinations, though accountants, lawyers or those with university degrees in economic subjects can get exemptions from some or all of the exams. Investment consultants must also do a six-month apprenticeship, while portfolio managers must do a nine-month apprenticeship.

However, anyone already working in the field will be exempt from the apprenticeship, and someone who has worked in the field for seven of the last 10 years will be exempt from all exams except the one on stock laws and professional ethics.

De Beers to search for diamonds near St. Petersburg

DE BEERS said it has agreed to form a joint venture with a Russian company to undertake diamond exploration for the first time in Russia, in the Arkhangel'sk region east of St. Petersburg.

The Russian partner, Northern Mining-Geological Co., or Terra, holds prospecting and mining licenses for two areas, Tovskaya and Ust-Pinega, said De Beers, the world's largest diamond producer.

The Tovskaya areas is located north of the port of Arkhangel'sk, while the Ust-Pinega area is

southeast of Arkhangel'sk.

The prospecting is being conducted under a technical agreement De Beers has with the Russian mining authorities, company spokesman Tom Tweedy said. The venture isn't related to the pending marketing agreement between De Beers' Central Selling Organization and Russia.

"This is purely prospecting and if we find any deposits, we will be evaluating them" for possible mining, Tweedy said.

He said prospecting is expected to begin almost immediately. Meanwhile, De Beers is still

awaiting approval from the Russian government of a new trade agreement through which the CSO markets Russian diamonds. The CSO and Siberia-based Almaz Rossii Sakha signed a memorandum of understanding in February, naming ARS as the sole marketer of Russian diamonds to the CSO, which controls 75 percent of the world's uncut diamond market.

Pending government approval, Russia has continued sales to the CSO under the terms of a previous five-year agreement that was to have expired in December 1995.

Tweedy said he couldn't provide an estimate of how much De Beers will be spending on the Russian prospecting. (Bloomberg)

Mutual funds' assets down 18% in '96

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

MUTUAL funds' assets plunged 18.6 percent since the start of the year as a result of redemptions of NIS 3.33 billion, according to the Meitav investment consulting firm's calculations.

The funds' total assets decreased to NIS 13.1b. at the end of November, from NIS 16.1b. at the end of 1995. Meitav's mutual fund index increased 2.5% since the start of the year.

According to Meitav, the public continued to prefer shekel deposits and saving plans over mutual funds in the reported period.

"The alternative investment routes offer a reasonable return and low risk," Meitav explained.

Meitav said mutual fund redemptions have decreased in

recent months, mainly because of the improvement of the share market. In November the funds suffered redemptions of NIS 267 million, compared with NIS 238m. in the previous month.

Since the start of the year, the share funds were the worst hit, with redemptions of NIS 1.5b. Flexible funds suffered redemptions of NIS 676m.; state funds reported redemptions of NIS 638m.; bond funds, NIS 569m.; mixed funds, NIS 390m. The foreign currency funds reported redemptions of NIS 126m., while funds specializing in investments in overseas shares reported redemptions of NIS 31m.

Standing out were the money funds, which benefited from deposits of NIS 605m.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)			

(Rates very higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (9.12.96)

Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rate**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.6900	3.6888	3.7100	3.7000	3.8617
German mark	3.2823	3.3048	3.2700	3.2800	3.2820
Pound sterling	2.0876	2.1919	2.0800	2.0900	2.0876
French franc	6.2465	6.4329	6.2500	6.3700	6.3812
Japanese yen (100)	0.8210	0.8311	0.8100	0.8400	0.8258
Dutch florin	2.8730	2.9194	2.8200	2.9600	2.8971
Swiss franc	1.6701	1.9003	1.6800	1.9800	1.8953
Australian dollar	2.4828	2.4828	2.4200	2.4200	2.4821
Norwegian krona	0.5020	0.5101	0.4900	0.5200	0.5078
Danish krone	0.5479	0.5588	0.5300	0.5700	0.5647
Finland mark	0.7015	0.7128	0.6800	0.7300	0.7109
Australian dollar	2.3959	2.3949	2.3500	2.4600	2.4181
Australian dollar	2.8007	2.8427	2.5600	2.6800	2.8067
S. African rand	0.8960	0.7083	0.8800	0.7100	0.7024
Belgian franc (10)	1.0173	1.0338	0.9900	1.0300	1.0305
Australian dollar (10)	2.3815	3.0298	2.9300	3.0800	3.0192
Italian lira (1000)	2.1278	2.1822	2.0900	2.2000	2.1453
Jordanian dinar	4.5200	4.8300	4.5200	4.8800	4.8278
Egyptian pound	0.9200	1.0100	0.9200	1.0100	1.0382
ECU	4.0489	4.1153	4.0000	4.0000	4.0804
Irish punt	5.3846	5.4512	5.2700	5.5300	5.3898
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4917	2.5319	2.4400	2.5700	2.5255

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

israel electric חברת החשמל

TENDERS

TENDERS
The Israel Electric Corporation wishes to purchase the following goods/services:

TENDER	DESCRIPTION	COST OF TENDER DOCUMENTS, INC. VAT (non-refundable)
563908	Low Pressure Feed Water Heaters Specification H/32-96 and H/22-96	NIS 351
575564	Main Cooling Water Pump Specification MCWP-001	NIS 926

Last day for submitting bids: January 5, 1997 at 11 a.m.

CONDITIONS APPLYING TO THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS:

- Participation in a tender is subject to complying with the preliminary conditions detailed in the Tender Regulations 1993, Para. 6(a) 1, 2, 3 (i.e., registration as required by law, compliance with mandatory specifications, and the holding of the permits required by law for businesses).
- If a bidder does not attach any particular document or permit, license or any other required material, as required by the preliminary conditions, the Electric Corporation may allow the bidder to submit the missing material, within a period of time to be set by the Corporation.

The tender documents may be obtained Sunday - Thursday, at the Market Research and Tenders Dept., 11 Sderot Pal-Yam, Haifa, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, on submission of a receipt, demonstrating payment (non-refundable) of the cost of the documents into the Corporation's account at the Postal Bank. Payment slips for making such payments are obtainable at the above address (Tel. 04-8615455/4). Before purchasing the tender documents, they may be perused Sunday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 noon, at the offices of the Market Research and Tenders Dept. at the above address, and at the Sales Unit, 90 Rehov Yigal Alon, Tel Aviv, Ashdar building, Entrance B, Floor 1, Tel. 03-5654679, 03-5654641.

No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.

NOTE. In appropriate cases, the Electric Corporation will give preference to suppliers, in accordance with the Tenders Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods, and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation).

TENDERS

TENDERS
The Israel Electric Corporation wishes to purchase the following goods/services:

TENDER	DESCRIPTION	COST OF TENDER DOCUMENTS, INC. VAT (non-refundable)
580675	Annual Contract for Providing Customs Services Stage I - Submission of Technical/Commercial Details, without Prices Period of Contract: The period during which the obligations and rights noted in the contract will apply, in accordance with the conditions to be agreed, will be for one year, with the possibility of extension for two additional years under the same terms, all at the discretion of the Electric Corporation. This option may be realized by the Electric Corporation at any time during the period of the contract. Preconditions for participation in the tender: 1. Bidder should submit a copy of a license (in the name of the bidder) for providing customs services, under the Customs Agents Law, 1964. 2. A sworn declaration by the bidder, signed by an individual holding a position of authority in the bidder's firm, and notarized by an attorney or notary, and confirming that: 2.1. The bidder has operated a licensed customs service office during the 10 years preceding the date of submitting the bid. 2.2. The bidder operates offices in Ashdod, Ben Gurion Airport, and Haifa. 2.3. At the time of submitting his bid, the bidder must have in his employ at least 5 registered clerks, with at least 3 years' experience. The bidder must also employ, at the time of submitting the bid, at least one licensed official having at least 10 years' experience in classifying goods, and two others with 5 years' experience. 2.4. The bidder operates computerized offices, including on-line links with the Customs Authority's computer. 2.5. The bidder has the proven ability to integrate EDI technology into the computer system of an external body. 2.6. The bidder is prepared to deal with the acceptance/transferring of goods on at least 3 ships simultaneously, at the same port. 2.7. For sea freight customs services - the bidder clears at least 600 items of sea freight. 2.8. Services for air freight - the bidder clears at least 1700 air shipments per month. * A bidder who fulfills only one of clauses 2.7 and 2.8 may submit a bid at the commercial stage for only one of the types of customs services required by the Electric Corporation.	NIS 351
578667	Low-voltage (up to 1 kV) Plastic Post Insulators, with Post Special participation conditions: The supplier must, within 14 days of the issue of an order, submit a complete sample, with inspection certificates confirming that the insulator meets the specified requirements. Only after the Electric Corporation has approved the sample may the supplier start production.	NIS 351
5735071	Machine for Transferring Electric Cable from Drum to Drum Stage I - Submission of Technical/Commercial Details, without Prices	NIS 351
Last date for submitting bids: January 12, 1997, 11 a.m.		
575810	Fire Detection and Extinguishing System for Potenberg Power Station Stage I - Submission of Technical/Commercial Details, without Prices Preconditions for participation in the tender: 1. The equipment offered (apart from monitoring boards) are to be listed or approved by at least one of the following recognized laboratories: ULC - Underwriters Laboratories - Canada FM - Factory Mutual - USA UL - Underwriters Laboratories - USA 2. The monitoring boards should be registered at UL, and approved by FM - both the control unit system and the releasing device equipment. 3. All the monitoring boards must be interconnected by a closed circuit, with data transfer in both directions, and with the possibility of making some of them operable as central monitoring boards. 4. Bidders must have experience of at least 10 years in the design, supply, and installation of \$1 m. fire detection and extinguishing systems. 5. The supplier should be an authorized distributor of fire detection and extinguishing systems, and should be able to provide a 24 hour emergency service, seven days a week. Bidders should provide documentation, confirming that they meet the above preconditions.	NIS 1989
568805	Single-Pole Fuse Switch, size 4 x A1250A/1800A Specification E-179/C of HRC Stage I - Submission of Technical/Commercial Details, without Prices The Electric Corporation reserves the right to order equipment, in an additional quantity of equipment, approximating the basic quantity specified, during a period of one year. Bidders should submit a sample of the equipment offered.	NIS 938
Last date for submitting bids: January 19, 1997, at 11 a.m.		

CONDITIONS APPLYING TO THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS (in addition to preliminary conditions specified for particular tenders):
a. A guarantee of 5% of the bid total, in the form of a private check, should be attached to the bid, except for tenders requesting technical information only (Stage 1).
b. Participation in a tender is subject to complying with the preliminary conditions detailed in the Tender Regulations 1993, Para. 6(a) 1, 2, 3 (i.e., registration as required by law, compliance with mandatory specifications, and the holding of the permits required by law for businesses).
c. If a bidder does not attach any particular document or permit, license or any other required material, as required by the preliminary conditions, the Electric Corporation may allow the bidder to submit the missing material, within a period of time to be set by the Corporation.
The tender documents may be obtained Sunday - Thursday, at the Market Research and Tenders Dept., 11 Sderot Pal-Yam, Haifa, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, on submission of a receipt, demonstrating payment (non-refundable) of the cost of the documents into the Corporation's account at the Postal Bank. Payment slips for making such payments are obtainable at the above address (Tel. 04-8615455/4). Before purchasing the tender documents, they may be perused at the above offices, or at the Sales Unit, 90 Rehov Yigal Alon, Tel Aviv, Ashdar building, Entrance B, Floor 1, Tel. 03-5654679, 03-5654641, Sunday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon.
Bids should be submitted in a closed envelope and placed in Tenders Box 1 in the Pal-Yam building, at the above address, by the above-stated last date for submission of bids.
No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.
NOTE. In appropriate cases, the Electric Corporation will give preference to suppliers, in accordance with the Tenders Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods, and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation).
The right to negotiate is reserved, where this is legal.

News Corp. expands music presence with Japanese venture

orders set for Boeing's super jumbo

מזכירות החדש

Key Representative Rates table with columns for U.S. Dollar, Sterling, and German mark, and their respective exchange rates against the NIS.

News Corp. expands music presence with Japanese venture

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (Reuters) - Moving to expand its role in the music industry, Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. Ltd. Friday linked up with Japan's hottest record producer in a venture it expects to be profitable within two years.

The venture, to be called TK News, will be a music, television, and multi-media production company initially developing and promoting Asian artists in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and China.

Chernin said he expects TK News to generate significant revenues, but declined to elaborate. In the last two years, Komuro produced records have sold 55 million units.

The joint venture begins February 7 and will be based in Hong Kong. Its board will be chaired by Komuro and 25-year-old Lachlan Murdoch, son of media mogul Rupert Murdoch and managing director of News Corp.'s Australian unit, News Ltd., and deputy chairman of STAR TV.

Lachlan Murdoch told Reuters after the news conference that News Corp. is not considering a bid for EMI Group Plc. Rumors of EMI's takeover have persisted since this summer's split up of Thorn EMI, its former parent.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading and Two-sided trading tables listing various stocks, their prices, and volume. Includes sections for Commercial Banks, Industrials, Property, Building & Agriculture, and Trade & Services.

Due to technical failure, the international stocks were unavailable.

TASE stable as market awaits budget developments

STOCKS were little changed yesterday as the cabinet debated a Finance Ministry proposal to cut an additional NIS 1.8 billion from next year's budget.

Koor Industries Ltd. and its subsidiary Tadiran Ltd. both gained 1 percent in late trading after a new report that a Tadiran subsidiary, Tadiran Systems, was negotiating to sell \$170m. worth of military equipment to two unspecified governments.

Tech stocks power US market rally

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks rallied back yesterday, led by technology shares, as investors continued to shake Friday's jitters over a seemingly veiled warning by Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan that the markets are too enthusiastic.

Monsanto sees more gene-altered crops in 1997

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (Reuters) - Protests over the use of genetically altered crops have had little impact on consumer confidence, and should not stop growth in acreage devoted to herbicide-resistant soybeans or pest-resistant corn, according to a Monsanto official.

There could be as much as 10 percent of next year's corn crop in Bt production," Dr. Molly Cline, Monsanto's director of food industry relations, told an industry conference on Sunday.

Monsanto already produces herbicide-resistant Roundup Ready soybeans. It will have corn that includes the Bt protein, resistant to the European corn borer, available to producers this year.

Roundup Ready soybeans again. Many were waiting for final yield data before making 1997 planting decisions, she said.

American professor wins Wolf Prize in physics

PROF. John Archibald Wheeler won the 1997 Wolf Prize for physics, the Wolf Foundation announced yesterday. Wheeler, a professor emeritus at Princeton University and the University of Texas at Austin, developed the modern "black hole" theory.

Wheeler was chosen for his "seminal contribution to black hole physics, to quantum gravity, and to the theories of nuclear scattering and nuclear fission," the foundation said.

Wheeler has received numerous awards since the 1940s, when he and Niels Bohr developed the theory of nuclear fission.

MUBARAK

There was some speculation last night that Erekat, who was in Cairo over the weekend and met with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, was receiving conflicting advice from different Egyptian aides.

Meanwhile, Israel and the Palestinians have agreed, as they have every month for the last six, to ask Norway to extend the deployment of its officials in Hebron. There are an estimated 80 Norwegians in the city.

Wheeler has received numerous awards since the 1940s, when he and Niels Bohr developed the theory of nuclear fission.

MINISTERS

me a red line, as it meant that the number of school hours would be cut, while the number of pupils per class would rise. As things turned out, this will not happen. I was greatly affected by the support for education shown by all the ministers, especially [Industry and Trade Minister Natan] Sharansky.

Sharansky: "I volunteered to cut my own ministry's budget and make a contribution from our funds to the Education Ministry. I will be doing so in the hope that this will serve as an example to the other ministers."

Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein: "The cuts are not simple for any of us. But I believe that measures were taken not to harm the weakest members of our society by imposing different cuts on different categories of ministries. Most of the ministers understood that the cuts are essential to put the entire economy on the right track for the benefit of all sectors of society."

BUDGET

There is a chance the budget will pass in the Knesset; it is important this happens. In the last 18 months, the government wasted a great deal of money. This is going to be a very dramatic year, to get us back on track."

The Knesset must vote on the budget's second and third readings before the end of the calendar year.

Haim Shapiro adds: Katsav, whose ministry's budget would be pared by 3%, or NIS 22m., under the new cut, said that it is not logical to stop funding the tourism industry, which has a 90% added value and which is one of the few to show an immediate return on marketing investment.

Markets recover from Friday's drop

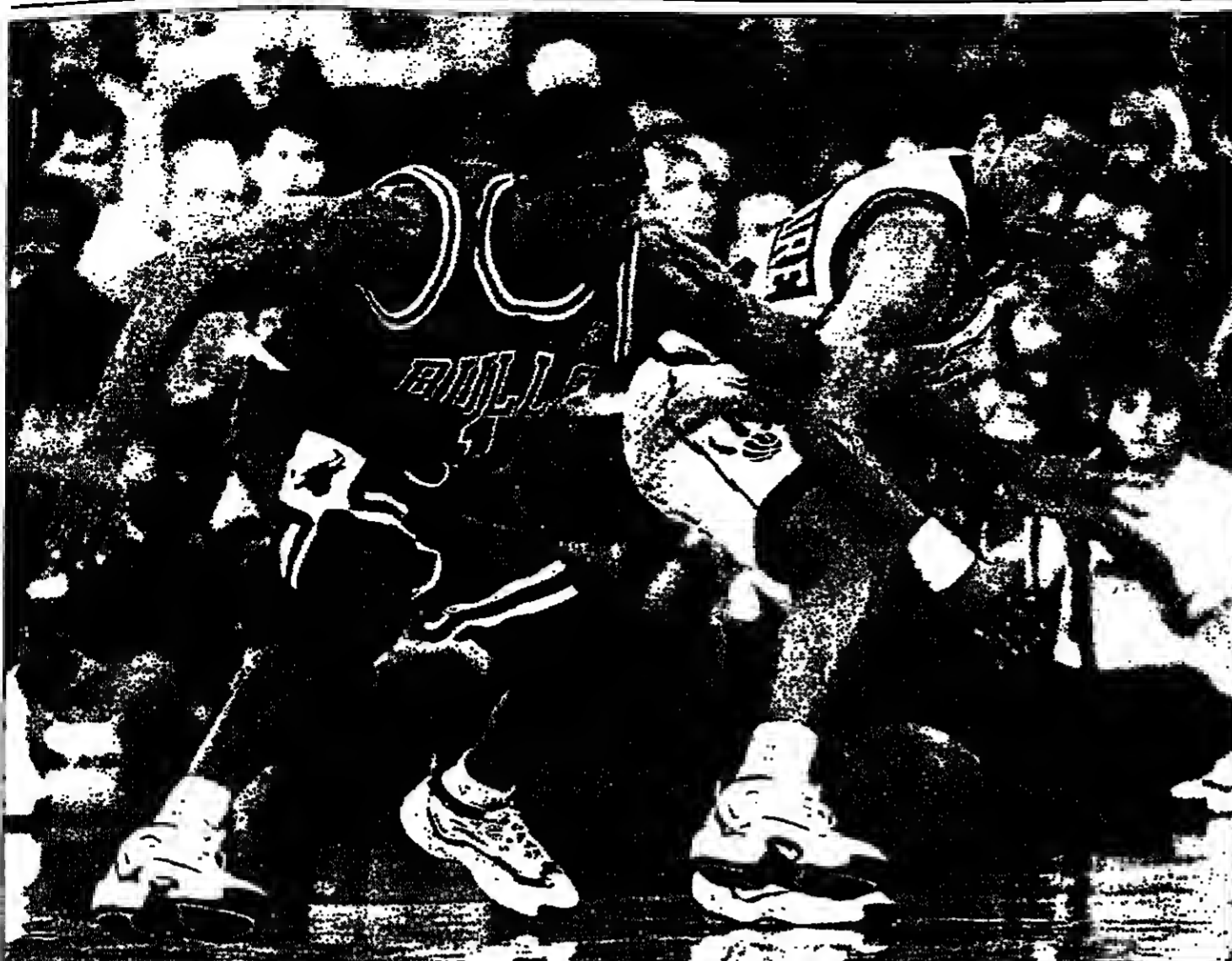
LONDON (Reuters) - British shares ended broadly higher yesterday as investors shrugged off last Friday's 88 point slide, which was the London market's biggest one-day percentage loss in more than two years.

HONG KONG - Hong Kong stocks advanced steadily to close higher, despite concerns about anti-speculation measures for the territory's booming property market, brokers said.

FRANKFURT - Calm descended on the German stock market yesterday, helping shares to reclaim more than half of their losses from Friday's rout and raising hopes for a resumption of the traditional pre-Christmas rally.

PARIS - French shares closed higher, but a last-minute bout of profit-taking eroded the early gains booked in a rebound on Friday's 2.26 percent slide on ministry the cuts will be made. Thus each minister can make sure that what he considers to be the highest priorities are not compromised.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES table listing exchange rates for MARK, STERLING, YEN, SF, and FFr.



CRAZY LEGS - Toronto guard Damon Stoudamire (right) struggles for control of the ball while Chicago guard Randy Brown tries to strip it from him during Sunday's game in Toronto.

Jordan scoreless in second half as Bulls lose second straight

TORONTO (AP) - For a while, it seemed as though this NBA season was going to be predictable. The Chicago Bulls were on a pace to win 70 games again, maybe even 73. It seemed as if the only things certain in life were death, taxes and another championship banner for the rafters of the United Center.

So much for that.

The best record in the NBA no longer belongs to Chicago, the first time that's happened since the end of the 1994-95 season.

The Bulls lost that bragging right with a weekend they'd love to forget, dropping back-to-back games to the Miami Heat and Toronto Raptors.

Making matters worse, the latter game Sunday featured the unravelling of the Bulls' composure and the worst clutch performance by Jordan since the 1995 Eastern Conference finals.

Not only was Jordan scoreless for the entire second half, he was picked up a costly technical foul with 50.5 seconds remaining in the 97-89 loss at SkyDome. It came less than a minute after Dennis Rodman was ejected for his second technical.

"I can't even put it into words," said Doug Christie, who defended Jordan "I try to get too high or too low but that was a great win. Spectacular."

Jordan wasn't putting it into words, either. He belted for the Bulls' team bus rather than speak to the 50 or so media members waiting for an explanation.

The Raptors scored the first nine points of the fourth quarter to get back into the game, and took an 85-84 lead on Damon Stoudamire's jump shot with 2:04 to play. Stoudamire finished with a career-high 31 points.

A career-high was then charged with an offensive foul under the Toronto basket, and he responded by waving his arm in a dismissive gesture at referee Mike Mathis. That prompted referee Bill Spooner, who was 50 feet away, to hit Rodman with his second technical of the game.

"I've been trying to be a good boy, I don't know what else to do," said Rodman, who was out-bounced 18-11 by Popeye Jones. "It's sad, David (Stern, the NBA commissioner) has these referees in diapers and they can't make any calls. I've never seen anyone get a technical foul for waving his hand."

Stoudamire sank the technical foul shot and Jones made two free throws for a four-point lead. After Jones grabbed a defensive board, Stoudamire drew a foul on Randy Brown - a call that irked Jordan enough to earn him a technical.

"They don't usually call those late in the game, especially against the Bulls," Jones said.

Stoudamire made the technical foul shot, then made the first of two free throws for a 90-84 lead with 50.5 seconds remaining. His assist on Carlos Rogers' basket 20 seconds later wrapped up the upset before a delighted crowd of 33,385.

Suns 91, Pacers 84
Wesley Person scored 21 points and tied a career-high with six 3-pointers as Phoenix won its third straight.

Phoenix, which lost a franchise-record 13 games to start the season, never trailed in snapping the Pacers' club-record road winning streak at five games.

Person shot 7-for-13 from the field, including 6-for-9 from 3-point range. As a team, the Suns made a season-high 10 3-pointers. A.C. Green clipped the 100-point mark for the fifth time this season.

Lakers 110, Timberwolves 86
Nick Van Exel scored 17 of his 23 points in the first quarter and Shaquille O'Neal had 22 points and 10 rebounds for host Los Angeles.

The win was the fifth in six games for the Lakers, who made their first three field goal attempts and never trailed. The 24-point margin of victory was the largest of the season for the Lakers.

Kings 91, Magic 84
Mitch Richmond scored 22 points and host Sacramento, bolstered by the addition of Tyus Edney and Michael Smith to the starting lineup, never trailed in defeating Orlando.

Edney scored 18 points with seven assists and Smith had a game-high 13 rebounds. Darrell Armstrong scored 17 points for the Magic.

Warriors 114, Spurs 88
Joe Smith scored 24 points, Latrell Sprewell added 23 and host Golden State snapped a two-game losing streak while handing the Spurs their 10th loss in 11 games.

The Warriors shot 56 percent for the game and 64 percent from 3-point (9-of-14) range. Golden State was a combined 1-of-27 from long range in its previous two games.

Rockets 100, Celtics 87
Vin Baker scored 24 points to help host Milwaukee overcome the loss of Glenn Robinson to an ankle sprain.

Robinson left the game in the second quarter after aggravating an injury he first sustained Saturday night. Ray Allen added 17 points for Milwaukee, while Sherman Douglas contributed 16 points and 10 assists and Andrew Lang had 14 points and 11 rebounds.

Cavaliers 90, Clippers 69
Terrell Brandon scored 30 points and sparked a 12-0 run to tie the second half for host Cleveland.

Rodney Rogers had 13 points and eight rebounds to lead the Clippers, who lost their third straight game.

Maccabi tops Galil Elyon

NADAV Henefeld stole the ball under his own basket, and then converted two free throws on the other end to ice Maccabi Tel Aviv's latest victory.

Last night's 88-86 win over Galil Elyon moved the Tel Avivians into first place, while the northerners suffered their first home loss of the season.

The game had an interesting theme, as four members of the all-time Galil Elyon team, Henefeld, Doron Sheffer, Brad Leaf and Oded Katsah, took the court as members of Maccabi Tel Aviv. One of the traits of Galil players is an ability to find the open man and bury the three-point shot, and Maccabi buried its long-range bombs to the tune of 11-16 en route to the victory.

Early in the second half, with the score 49-48 Maccabi, Henefeld hit a fallaway three-point shot that sparked an 8-0 run giving Tel Aviv a comfortable lead. Thanks in large part to Henefeld's suffocating defense on Gur Shelef, coach

ELI GRONER
Zvi Scherf's club was able to maintain a secure lead for most of the half. The northern club had ample opportunity to close the gap, however crucial turnovers (13 overall) stymied several potential spurts.

But then Sheffer, the former Galil star playing in his first game in Kfar Blum since the championship clincher over Maccabi in 1993, fouled out with just under five minutes remaining. Sheffer's departure precipitated a late Galil drive, as the northerners cut a ten-point deficit to two, 82-80, in less than three minutes. The charge was spearheaded by Gil Sela, who was able to penetrate at will after Shefer left, and by Shelef.

At that point, Maccabi decided to pound the ball inside to Randy White. White utilized his considerable bulk to convert two free throws and a field goal on consecutive Maccabi possessions, enabling Tel Aviv to keep the tor-

rid pace set by Sela and Shelef.

On Maccabi's next possession though, Buck Johnson, who had an otherwise solid second half, committed an offensive foul allowing Galil to take the final possession down 86-84. However Henefeld came through with the swipe, saving the game for Maccabi.

White paced the Tel Avivians with 21 points, Johnson added 16, while Henefeld and Sheffer contributed 14 apiece. Sela was outstanding for the northerners, leading them with 21 points. Shelef and Andrew Kennedy scored 20 and 17, respectively.

Rift widens between athletes, managers

IT was meant to be devoted to the development and promotion of sport in Israel but instead, the conference at Kfar Hamaccabiah last week only served to strengthen the rift between the sports managers and the managed.

Lending her voice to swimmers Yoav Bruck's critique in Ma'ariv of the Israeli Olympic Committee and especially its head, Ephraim Zinger, was Olympic medalist Yael Arad.

The overwhelming feeling among the sportspeople is a dissatisfaction with the powers above because of their lack of experience on the sports fields and swimming pools.

Director of the Wingate Institute, Dr. Gilad Weingarten, also had his say, calling on the top echelons to resign and to let sportspeople run the show. The problem has been noted before and is likely to be noted again.

Little Las Vegas
If Eilat mayor Gabi Kadosh has his way, his fun-loving city will be transformed into an Israeli center for boxing, or in his own words, "Little Las Vegas."

This comes after the success of the international tournament, "Eilat - Red Sea" over the weekend with 60 boxers from nine states competing. While most teams did not field their top boxers, Israel's second place finish (three gold medals, two silvers and eight bronzes) was a remarkable achievement and gave the President of the European Boxing Association, Emil Zechin, from Bulgaria, the push to announce that the European Nations Cup '97 will be held in Eilat in December 1997.

Ukraine won the competition with three gold medals, four silvers and one

THE LOCAL SCENE
HEATHER CHAIT
bronze. Kazakhstan was third. Making gold for Israel was Alexander Zhibshv (63.5 kilograms), Ronny Chesla (67kg) and Vissm Hezkiya (81kg).

Golfers grab the spotlight
Uri Shani and El Ad Hassan, competing in the Visa two-person scramble golf championships at Caesarea, scored 64 for a first place finish. Issam Cohen and Duda Saleh managed 65 and in third place were Shuki Zaidin and Dan Feingold. Also in the limelight were Sami Hacıyo whose 225 meters drive was the longest of the day, Jeff Isaacs who landed up two meters from the hole on the tenth and Nissim Zinati whose eighth hole shot dropped just three meters from the hole.

National tennis team reaches new heights
The national tennis team has reached the main group of the European Men's Team Championships for the first time, after winning their section in Paris this week. The team, Nir Weinger, Yoni Edich and Raviv Weidenfeld, beat Romania 3-0, lost to Spain 2-1 and beat France 2-0 to lead their group. Israel has competed four times in this tournament but only now qualifies for the elite group.

Teakwando national championships underway
The national teakwando championships are being held today and tomorrow at Kibbutz Tzor'a. Today is the turn of the teakwando "babies," some as young as six, who will not be involved in any physical contact. Tomorrow the youth and seniors competition will be held with the finals at Apni. Coming to a close in a different martial art will be judoka Oren Simadja, sure to be a hit with the contestants.

Bikers heading for Jerusalem
Jerusalem will be filled with two-

wheeled enthusiasts this Friday when "Jerusalem for Bikes" holds a ride through the city. The cyclists will begin at Sacher Park at 11am and pedal along to the Patir junction, Karamon, Bakta and end at the tayelet in Talpior. Also demonstrating their bike passion will be a few blind cyclists, riding together on tandems with people with normal vision.

Rollerblade hockey tourney opens this week
Herziya will be overruled this week by a throng of rollerbladers, as the national in-line hockey tournament gets underway. Teams from the three main cities as well as from Ashdod, Reut, Petach Tikva and others will participate in the categories - grades 1-4, 5-9 and 10-12. Crazy Roller, a rollerblades center, is hosting the event and the long-term aim is to start a national in-line hockey league. For more information call (09) 559584.

Baseball - A Hanukkah tradition
Over a hundred young baseball aspirants, ages 10-12, played in the two-day, Second Annual Hanukkah Tournament which was concluded yesterday at Kibbutz Gezer. Twelve teams competed with Gezer beating Jerusalem Gray (one of four Jerusalem teams in the contest) 9-2 in the final. Ra'anana was third. The event was organized by the Israel Association of Baseball and directed by Blair Portnoy. The season is due to begin in March and for more information, call (03) 522-1010.

Squash tourney set to begin
Ronon Goldberg and Yair Feld are the two top seeds for the Grand Prix squash competition to be held tomorrow through Monday at Herziya's squash club. Twelve seeded players are in the first round while qualifying rounds will be held to fill the remaining four spots. While the draw for this event is already closed, watch this column for news of the next Grand Prix.

Kumble, Srinath wreck South Africa

KANPUR, India (Reuters) - Leg spinner Anil Kumble and medium-pacer Javagal Srinath exploited an uneven pitch to bowl South Africa out for 177 in their first innings, giving India a 60-run lead on the second day of their third Test on Monday.

Kumble claimed four for 71 and Srinath three for 42 as South Africa were bundled out in reply to India's first innings score of 237.

But South African paceman Fanie De Villiers struck back immediately to claim opener Woorker Raman leg before wicket for two and leave India seven for one at close.

South Africa were cruising smoothly at 121 for three before a middle order collapse saw them lose four wickets in the space of 30 balls and 10 runs against some incisive bowling.

Kumble engineered the collapse by having Darryl Cullinan caught brilliantly for 29 at first slip by Mohammed Azharuddin off a fastish leg break, and Hansie Cronje caught by substitute Vangipurappu Laxman at mid-on for 15.

India second innings
W.V.Raman lvs De Villiers 2
N.Mohammed not out 4
A.Kumble not out 4
Extras (b-3 lb-1) 10
Total (all out in 100.1 overs) 237
Fall of wickets: 1-76 (2-23 3-60 4-185 5-185 6-183 7-214 8-224 9-224)
Bowling: De Villiers 17-18-0, Kumble 17-4-7-0 (1 nb), Symcox 21-5-57-0, Makhaya 18-40-2, Adams 18-1-0-25-0, Cronje 10-5-11-2.

South Africa
A.Hudson lvs Kumble 15
G.Groen lvs Kapoor 43
H.Croen lvs Kapoor 17
D.Cullinan lvs Azharuddin b Kumble 29
H.Croen c Sub (Laxman) b Kumble 15
B.Mohammed b Srinath 1
D.Richardson b Srinath 6
L.Kusener c David b Srinath 9
P.Symcox not out 28
F.de Villiers lvs Kumble 6
P.Adams run out 4
Extras (b-4 lb-3) 10
Total (all out in 72.3 overs) 177
Fall of wickets: 1-10 2-23 3-94 4-121 5-128 6-130 7-131 8-144 9-183.
Bowling: Srinath 18-7-42-3, Prasad 14-5-25-0, Kumble 21-2-71-4, Kapoor 8-2-19-2, Joshi 7.5-2-13-0.

EASTERN CONFERENCE						
Team	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Streak
Atlanta	15	5	.750	0	8-1	Won 1
Miami	12	6	.667	2	6-4	Won 3
New York	12	6	.667	2	4-6	Lost 4
Orlando	6	6	.500	8	4-6	Lost 4
Washington	7	10	.412	9 1/2	4-6	Lost 4
Philadelphia	7	11	.389	7	4-6	Lost 3
New Jersey	4	11	.267	9 1/2	4-6	Lost 1
Charlotte	4	14	.222	10	2-8	Lost 6
Phoenix	3	15	.167	11	1-9	Lost 7
Indiana	3	15	.167	11	1-9	Lost 7
Cleveland	17	3	.850	0	8-2	Lost 2
Detroit	15	5	.750	0	8-2	Won 4
Cleveland	12	6	.667	4	6-4	Won 1
Atlanta	11	8	.579	5 1/2	6-4	Won 1
Milwaukee	10	8	.556	6	5-5	Won 2
Charlotte	9	9	.500	7	6-4	Won 1
Indiana	8	9	.471	7 1/2	4-6	Lost 1
Toronto	7	12	.368	9 1/2	4-6	Won 1

WESTERN CONFERENCE						
Team	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Streak
Midwest	17	2	.895	0	9-1	Won 2
Houston	12	7	.632	5 1/2	8-2	Won 14
Utah	11	7	.611	6 1/2	5-5	Won 2
Dallas	7	11	.389	10 1/2	3-7	Lost 4
Minnesota	7	12	.369	11	2-9	Lost 6
Denver	5	15	.250	12 1/2	1-8	Lost 6
San Antonio	5	15	.250	12 1/2	1-8	Lost 2
Vancouver	3	17	.150	14 1/2	1-9	Lost 1
Pacific	15	5	.750	0	8-4	Lost 1
Seattle	15	5	.750	0	7-3	Won 2
L.A. Lakers	15	7	.682	1/2	7-3	Won 2
Portland	12	8	.600	2 1/2	7-3	Won 2
Golden State	7	13	.350	7 1/2	4-6	Won 1
L.A. Clippers	7	13	.350	7 1/2	4-6	Lost 2
Sacramento	7	13	.350	7 1/2	3-7	Won 1
Phoenix	4	14	.222	9 1/2	4-6	Won 3

CLASSIFIEDS

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SUNDAY'S NET RESULTS:

Dallas 1, Florida 1, 6
St. Louis 3, Edmonton 2

EASTERN CONFERENCE						
Atlantic Division						
Team	W	L	Pts	GF	GA	Diff
Florida	15	7	41	84	54	30
Philadelphia	15	2	39	81	78	3
New Jersey	14	11	29	64	85	-21
N.Y. Rangers	12	13	5	29	101	-72
Washington	13	11	24	67	86	-19
N.Y. Islanders	8	14	2	20	72	-52
Tampa Bay	9	15	2	20	73	-53
Northeast Division						
Hartford	13	7	32	83	80	3
Buffalo	15	4	32	82	83	-1
Montreal	12	14	4	28	102	-74
Pittsburgh	11	13	3	25	91	-66
Boston	10	11	5	25	75	-50
Ottawa	8	12	6	22	67	-45
WESTERN CONFERENCE						
Central Division						
Dallas	18	10	2	34	78	56
Detroit	15	9	4	30	85	45
St. Louis	15	10	0	30	81	49
Chicago	12	14	3	27	74	-7
Phoenix	10	13	4	24	65	-19
Toronto	11	17	1	22	81	-59
Pacific Division						
Colorado	17	8	4	38	102	84
Vancouver	14	12	1	29	86	43
Edmonton	14	13	3	29	101	83
Los Angeles	12	13	3	24	72	-48
San Jose	10	14	4	24	72	-48
Calgary	10	16	3	23	66	-43
Anaheim	9	15	5	23	77	-54

CRITIC'S CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

TOMER Lev's series "Those Fascinating Years of Crisis" continues with De Profundis: Viena in an Expressionist Mode. Tonight at the Tel Aviv Museum (8). The evening features a lecture by Ariel Hirschfeld, and a concert of works by Mahler, Berg and Schoenberg.

MURRAY Perahia displays his skills playing Mozart's 24th (K.491) piano concerto as well as Schubmann's Concerto Allegro with Introduction. Michael Stern, making his local debut, leads the IPO to Tchaikovsky's "Francesco da Rimini" and the Meditation and Vengeance Dance from Barber's "Medea". At the Mano Auditorium in Tel Aviv tonight and at the Haifa Auditorium on Saturday (8:30).

DANCE

HELEN KAYE

Curtain Up and International Exposure take off at the Suzanne Dellal Dance Center with three premieres: Noa Dar's "Nothing But" with live music from Tractor's Revenge about memory and forgetting in the collective; Poppins by Anat Danieli which she describes as born of an autumn mindset, and Barak Marshall's "A Land of Sad Oranges" based on a traditional song from Aden. On the mainstage at 8:30 p.m.

THEATER

HELEN KAYE

HEFETZ, the story of a terminal loser who threatens suicide because he's not invited to a family wedding, is one of Hanoch Levin's best. The excellent Cameri Theater revival directed by Ilan Roonen stars loog-time Levin specialists Tikki Dayov, Yitzhak Hiziya, Yosef Carmon, and Ya'acov Cohen in the title role. Tonight on the Cameri mainstage at 8:30. (Hebrew with simultaneous translation into English.)

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

★1/2 JACK - In Coppola's new comedy, Robin Williams plays a 10-year-old boy with a rare medical condition that causes his body to age at four times the normal rate. The little-kid-trapped-in-a-grown-up-body routine is an



Michael Stern conducts the IPO.

extremely thin thread from which to hang an entire film, and one is tempted to dismiss the picture out of hand for the predictably corny lessons it offers - about seizing the day and holding fast to your inner child. But Williams's portrayal of this aged prepubescent is so genuine and guileless that it lifts up and dignifies an otherwise-undistinguished hit of formulaic Hollywood pap. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. General audiences.)

MUSIC

HELEN KAYE

HAN Tang Yuefu is a musical ensemble from Taiwan. The four musicians and five singers (dressed in colorful costumes) sing and play the music of imperial China. At the Einav Music Center in Tel Aviv tonight at 10.

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

The Discovery Channel's series "Looking for Lost Worlds" focuses tonight on the story of the discovery of King Tutankhamen's tomb by the English archaeologist Howard Carter. Carter's patrol dedicated his life to preserving and studying the tomb situated in the Valley of the Kings in Egypt. At 10 p.m. and again tomorrow at 5 p.m.

WHAT'S ON TELEVISION

CHANNEL 1
8:31 News in Arabic 8:45 Exerpe Hour 7:00 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV
8:00 Sunrise Train 8:45 Kitty Cat and Tommy 8:45 Gay and Gal 9:00 Shalom Sesame 9:30 The World is Round - animation 10:00 Storybook 10:35 Zombit 11:00 Stories from a Flying Trunk (1979) - three Hans Christian Andersen stories (83 mins.) 12:25 Flight of the Angel 13:30 The One-on-One Line 14:00 Surprise Train 14:45 Kitty Cat and Tommy 14:45 Gay, Gal and Gil 15:00 Zombit

CHANNEL 1
15:30 Tinytown Tales 15:50 Booky 16:00 Mysterious Island 16:25 What's the Noise? - classical music 16:55 Zap to Zionism 16:59 A New Evening 17:24 King Solomon - Solomon talks to the animals in the first episode of three-part musical based on the "Legends of King Solomon" with Doron Tavori, Riki Gal and Gil Abn. 18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS
18:30 Apropo 19:00 News in Arabic
HEBREW PROGRAMS
18:30 News Flash 18:31 Lighting of the sixth Hanukkah candle 18:34 Akers in the Family 20:00 News 20:50 Loto results live 20:55 News Host Miki Peled 22:00 Loto Pick: Peledman: In the Fiddler's House (1985) - documentary about violinist Perlman's journey in search of his musical roots among the composer's players in Eastern Europe 23:00 Songs We Loved 23:30 News 00:30 News of the Day

CHANNEL 2
10:00 Dam Cat - animation 12:05 Happy Ever After: The Emperor's New Clothes 12:35 Cartoons 13:05 Master of the 13:30 All Together Now 14:30 Junior News 15:00 Aladdin 18:00 Bold and the Beautiful 18:00 The Most Beautiful Girl in the World 18:00 News magazine 17:00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air 18:00 My So-Called Life 18:00 Hartmann 18:20 Price is Right 18:30 The Most Beautiful Girl in the World 18:30 Fact with Sara Deyan 22:00 Fox Night 23:15 X-Files 00:00 News 00:15 X-Files 00:18 Night Encounters with Kati Weiden 1:00 Jazz Blues and Videotape 1:55 On the Edge of the Shelf

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WHAT'S ON CABLE

CHANNEL 1
14:05 Budge 14:25 Oscar's Orchestra 14:40 I Love Lucy 15:00 French programs 15:00 At the Zoo 16:30 Dog House 17:00 News Flash 17:01 Fun with Physics 17:15 Road to Avonlea 18:00 French Programs 19:30 News headlines 19:35 Murphy Brown 20:00 Documentary 20:30 Encounter - talk show 21:10 Star Trek - The Next Generation 21:15 News in English 22:30 Chira Beach 23:15 Mission Impossible 00:00 Are You Being Served?

MIDDLE EAST TV
7:00 Quantum Shopping 8:00 TV Shop 14:30 700 Club 15:00 Larry King 16:00 Hunter 16:55 Family Challenge 17:45 Family Matters 18:10 Saved by the Bell 18:35 Day and Date 19:30 World News Tonight (Arabic) 20:00 American Football 23:00 CNN 23:30 700 Club 00:00 TV Shop 23:00 Quantum Shopping 3:00 TV Shop

CHANNEL 1
15:30 Tinytown Tales 15:50 Booky 16:00 Mysterious Island 16:25 What's the Noise? - classical music 16:55 Zap to Zionism 16:59 A New Evening 17:24 King Solomon - Solomon talks to the animals in the first episode of three-part musical based on the "Legends of King Solomon" with Doron Tavori, Riki Gal and Gil Abn. 18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS
18:30 Apropo 19:00 News in Arabic
HEBREW PROGRAMS
18:30 News Flash 18:31 Lighting of the sixth Hanukkah candle 18:34 Akers in the Family 20:00 News 20:50 Loto results live 20:55 News Host Miki Peled 22:00 Loto Pick: Peledman: In the Fiddler's House (1985) - documentary about violinist Perlman's journey in search of his musical roots among the composer's players in Eastern Europe 23:00 Songs We Loved 23:30 News 00:30 News of the Day

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Police shoot bank robber during chase

RAINE MARCUS and JUDY SIEGEL

THREE masked robbers armed with a knife and pistols held up a Bank Hapoalim branch in Rosh Ha'ayin yesterday. Two of them managed to escape with the cash. Police shot and wounded the third during a chase and he was later apprehended.

A number of bank customers and passersby went into shock.

The wounded robber was captured in his town of Kafr Kasim. A Magen David Adom ambulance took him to the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus in Petah Tikva.

At 9 a.m. the robbers entered the bank. One stood guard at the door and another near the bank's guard while the third went to the counter, demanding cash. But while a clerk was handing over the money, another employee phoned police, who arrived immediately and waited outside.

When the robbers emerged, they fled in their vehicle with police in hot pursuit. According to police, the robbers opened fire on them, and police shot back, wounding one of them in the stomach.

A Kupat Holim Chalit health fund clinic team, which heard the shots from the clinic located 50 meters away, ran over to the bank with their emergency medical equipment. Prof. Michael Weingarten and his colleagues treated the customers and passersby.

In the meantime, the three robbers succeeded in escaping from police, who later found their abandoned vehicle in Kafr Kasim.

The wounded man was arrested when he turned up at a grocery store in the town. Before surgery, he refused to cooperate with police.

Last night police were still searching for his two accomplices, whose identities are known.



Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon lights a hanukkah with a delegation from the Israel 2000 project, which visited the Knesset yesterday. The project aims to build a "better Israeli society" through cooperation among various businesses and volunteer youth and children's organizations. (Flash 90)

WEATHER

Haifa	13-19	Tiberias	12-20
Afula	10-19	Samarina	9-15
Tel Aviv	13-19	Jerusalem	8-14
BeerSheva	10-21	Dead Sea	14-23
Eilat	14-24		

Forecast: Rainy to partly cloudy.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Wind	Cloud
Amsterdam	10	12	W	cloudy
Berlin	8	10	W	cloudy
Buenos Aires	12	18	W	clear
Caracas	24	30	W	clear
Chicago	10	12	W	cloudy
Düsseldorf	10	12	W	cloudy
Frankfurt	10	12	W	cloudy
Geneva	10	12	W	cloudy
Helsinki	8	10	W	cloudy
Hong Kong	18	24	W	cloudy
London	10	12	W	cloudy
Los Angeles	12	18	W	cloudy
Madrid	10	12	W	cloudy
Moscow	8	10	W	cloudy
New York	10	12	W	cloudy
Paris	10	12	W	cloudy
Sydney	18	24	W	cloudy
Stockholm	8	10	W	cloudy
Tokyo	10	12	W	cloudy
Vienna	10	12	W	cloudy
Zurich	10	12	W	cloudy

Supreme Court upholds conviction, sentence of teenage murderer

EVELYN GORDON

THE Supreme Court yesterday upheld the conviction and sentence of a teenage boy who murdered an 11-year-old on Kibbutz Shoval five years ago.

The teenager, who was 16 at the time, lived with his mother in BeerSheva. His parents were divorced, and his father was living with a woman and her three children on Shoval. The youngest, 11, was mentally retarded.

The teenager went to visit his father on Shabbat in August, 1991, and when the two adults woke up from their afternoon nap, the 11-year-old was missing. The

following day, his body was "discovered" by the teenager, who initially accused his father of the murder.

But three days later, he changed his story and said he had killed the boy accidentally. Later he changed his story again and said he had murdered the boy due to a fight over what television show to watch. He was eventually convicted on the basis of this confession, after a psychiatric examination found that he was emotionally disturbed and prone to outbursts of

anger and cruelty, but not insane.

Justices Eliahu Mazza, Ya'acov Kedmi, and Ya'acov Terkel rejected the argument that inconsistencies between the teenager's confession and the facts should lead to his acquittal. The inconsistencies were minor, they said, compared to the fact that he had revealed many important and previously-unknown details in his confession.

Finally, they upheld the 20-year sentence, saying it was justified in light of the "monstrous" nature of the crime and his emotional problems, which could lead to future violent outbursts.

Yahalom slams OC Manpower for remarks on religious officers

LIAT COLLINS

MK Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party), chairman of the Knesset Law Committee, has sent a letter to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai asking him to clarify statements attributed to OC Manpower Maj.-Gen. Gideon Sheffer.

Sheffer was quoted in *Ha'aretz* praising officers from the national religious community, but

answered a question on whether there is a threat increasing numbers of religious officers will lead to right-wing extremism in the military. "They won't be more than a minority. We'll find a number of officers who do not wear kippot."

Yahalom said this implies that officers "will be chosen not for their abilities, but according to whether or not they wear kippot, despite the fact he finds no fault with the way they function."

Yahalom said this harmed the candidates for officers courses, as Sheffer is sending out a message to limit the number of religious officers.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bar member assures Justice Barak of support

Attorney Moshe Aloni, a senior member of the Bar Association, met with Supreme Court President Aharon Barak yesterday to assure him that most of the Bar rejected the criticism Bar chairman Dror Hoter-Yishai had leveled against the court. Aloni said the meeting was aimed at restoring the good relations and cooperation which previously existed between the Bar and the court, and that Barak also supported this goal.

Evelyn Gordon

Court defers appeal in Bengalev case

The Supreme Court gave the state a month's extension yesterday to decide on its position vis-a-vis a minor convicted of involvement with the same murder for which Elazar Bengalev was apparently wrongly convicted last year.

Bengalev was released recently after three other men confessed to the murder, but the state said there was evidence connecting the minor to the new suspects as well. The court therefore agreed to defer the minor's appeal for another month while the state examined this evidence.

Evelyn Gordon

NRP honors Shimuel Meir

The National Religious Party Knesset faction held a poignant meeting yesterday dedicated to Jerusalem deputy mayor Shimuel Meir, who was killed in a road accident last week. Paraphrasing a poem, faction chairman Hanan Porat called Meir "one of Jerusalem's stones."

At yesterday's meeting, Likud MK and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert asked the MKs to fight during the budget discussions for the funds and resources for the city as required under the Basic Law: Jerusalem, the Capital.

The NRP MKs also protested the arrest on Shabbat of Hebron Jewish community spokesman Noam Arnon.

Liati Collins

Ministry to form panel to study smoking ban on flights

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Transportation Ministry is to set up a professional committee to discuss prohibiting smoking on all flights entering and leaving Israel, and not only those flights that take less than two hours. This arrangement - reached yesterday by Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy, the Israel Cancer Association, a group of El Al cabin staffers and a frequent flyer - received the blessing of the High Court of Justice.

Studies have shown that the recycled air inside passenger aircraft is not decontaminated, thus toxic concentrations of cigarette smoke are high.

Justice Tova Strassberg-Cohen, who heard the application for a temporary injunction against Levy, and fellow Justices Dalia Dorner and Zvi Tal, said they would give the ministry committee three months to deal with the problem, and that the minister would have to present his position on the issue in May.

According to the 1994 legislation banning smoking in all workplaces, the restrictions are applicable only in buildings and therefore do not cover flight personnel.

Winning cards

The winning cards in yesterday's daily Chance draw were the seven of spades, nine of hearts, ace of diamonds, and nine of clubs.

Lubotsky wants probe into Nazis in Canada, Australia

LIAT COLLINS

MK Alex Lubotsky (Third Way) has raised the question of whether the Justice Ministry is following up on a newspaper expose on the extent to which Nazi war criminals have found sanctuary in Canada and Australia and whether the ministry intends to ask for their extradition.

The situation in Canada was reported in the *Jerusalem Post Magazine* on November 22.

Lubotsky expressed concern that Israel had fallen victim to what he called "The Demjanjuk Syndrome," and had become hesitant to chase war criminals since John Demjanjuk was acquitted.

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